



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Strathclyde council may be scrapped

A complete reorganisation of local government in Scotland, which involves scrapping Britain's largest council, Strathclyde, and creating a single tier of power, was proposed by the government yesterday (Ray Clancy writes). Strathclyde, which provides services for half the Scottish population, is the prime target in a consultation document launched by Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, who also published a report on the financial implications.

Mr Lang told a press conference in Glasgow that he was confident that the predictions in the Touche Ross report would result in savings of up to £200 million a year, which would quickly offset the transitional costs. The consultation document sets out four possible new structures to replace the present two-tier system of nine regional councils, 53 districts and three island councils set up in 1975.

The models for discussion set out what would happen under a system of 15, 24, 35 and 51 authorities but Mr Lang emphasised that he was open to other proposals. "I want to hear from the ordinary people of Scotland on how they want their country to be run at a local level," he said, adding that a £25,000 video on local government reorganisation produced by the Scottish Office is to be widely distributed free of charge. He envisaged community groups watching the video and then sending in their views by January 1994.

## Sentence challenged

The five-year sentence on a former Ulster Defence Regiment woman soldier who killed her army officer lover's wife should be doubled, the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal was told yesterday. If Susan Christie's sentence for the manslaughter of Penny McAllister could not be 10 years then it should be close to it, said Brian Kerr QC, representing the Attorney General's office. Christie, 24, was jailed in June after being found guilty of killing Mrs McAllister by cutting her throat as the two women strolled through a forest in Co Down. The case follows the Attorney General's decision to ask for a review because Christie's sentence was considered "unduly lenient".

## Marine dies from drink

A Royal Marine died after a heavy drinking session to celebrate winning his green beret, an inquest in Exmouth, Devon, heard yesterday. Marine Ian Mallard, 17, eventually fell off his stool after drinking lager, whisky and vodka during the session at a village pub in Woodbury with 40 recruits and staff members from the Commando training centre at Lympstone. Marine Mallard's blood alcohol level was almost five times the legal limit for driving, pathologist Dr Roderick Simpson told the inquest. The young marine, from Aragon Green, Blacon, Cheshire, received treatment at the marine camp but died in hospital in Exeter from inhaling his own vomit and acute alcohol poisoning.

## Councils fight for status

Councils representing two of the most economically deprived areas in Britain have commissioned a firm of international management consultants to combat any move by the government to deprive them of assisted area status. Dwyfor and Meirionnydd district councils, in northwest Wales, who cover some of the most beautiful and sparsely populated parts of Britain, called in Touche Ross after strong government hints that, once a current review has been completed, fewer parts of Britain will qualify for special assistance. Touche Ross say that unless the Pwllheli and Portmadoc-Ffestiniog areas receive full development area status, existing levels of poverty and work will worsen.

## Couples seek advice

The number of couples seeking help to save their relationships has increased by 50 per cent over the past five years, with the recession being blamed for many break-ups. Around 70,000 new cases sought help from Relate last year and nearly 400,000 interviews were carried out with people going through marriage or relationship problems. Unemployment, redundancy, mortgage arrears and mounting debts are having devastating effects on family life, Relate says in its annual review, published today. Couples under such stresses are more likely to argue, blame each other and drink too much, with an increase in domestic violence as a result. Many become suicidal, the report adds.

## Ronson wins apology

Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron International, yesterday accepted a public apology in settlement of his libel action over a press release and magazine article alleging that his charitable trusts gave nothing to charity until his arrest in connection with the Guinness affair. Brian Heworth, his solicitor, told Mr Justice Drake in the High Court that a press release issued in September by several national newspapers by The National Magazine Company, publisher of *Equity* magazine, and an article in this month's issue, contained "seriously defamatory" statements. Lawrence Abramson, for the publisher, said that the allegations were regretted. The company agreed to pay Mr Ronson's costs.

## Sneer tactics leave Lamont lost for words

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Poor Mr Lamont. In a revealing moment at the Treasury select committee interrogation yesterday, someone quoted his press critics at him. Lamont's candour got the better of his grammar. "They seem," he said bitterly, "to be extremely out to create a bit of problems here and there."

You saw his point. We admired him simply for getting there. These days, if Norman Lamont asks a taxi driver to take him to Victoria station, the cabbie will probably make an intelligent guess and assume he means Waterloo. Picture breakfast at the Lamonts'...

"Shredded Wheat, Norman?" "Yes please, dear," Mrs Lamont reaches for the Coco Pops.

"And after your cereal?"

"Sausages, please, Rosemary."

"Are you sure? Very well. Egg on toast coming up. Do you think it will rain today?"

"Absolutely not, Rosemary. Clear and sunny all day. Never been more certain of anything in my life."

"Your mackintosh is behind the door, and the umbrella's in the hall."

Who would be Chancellor of the Exchequer? Yesterday, milkmen rose early to sell an honest pint and collect a cheery "Good morning" along the way. Whidger manufacturers were proudly inspecting their widdgers, doctors were tending to the living and vicars praying for the dead. Norman Lamont, meanwhile, rose and was taken to a place where he was asked by Brian Sedgmore MP whether it was not the case that "You're a dishonest person who gets civil servants to fake statistics for your own political purposes?"

The Chancellor blinked, his expression suggesting that Mr Sedgmore had a point but had perhaps overstated it. "Can I say that's not correct?" he ventured.

His questioner repeated of his discourtesy and tried what was, for the bear-like Sedgmore, a gentlemanly approach. "Don't you agree that your judgment is probably the last judgment on Earth that anybody's going to believe?"

"How can we trust you?" added Giles Radice. Mr Lamont muttered that this was "cheap". "You're cheap," said Mr Radice, in a conversational sort of way—but others were waiting for a chat too. Alan Beith wanted to tell him that he was in a hole. Dark-skinned Diane Abbott had broached the subject of Black Wednesday, signalling that the phrase was not, after all, politically

incorrect: and Nicholas Budgen wanted to follow up his kindly suggestion that Lamont was telling lies. On these occasions, Budgen (C, Wolverhampton SW) becomes contempt made manifest.

The Cheshire cat may have left only its grin behind but, with the Wolverhampton cat, in the air would be the sneer. The only compensation for Lamont must have been that MPs were so eager to prove that he had made a mess of the past that they never got round to proving he was going to make a mess of the future.

And all this, live on Radio 4, visible to the nation on BBC2 television, and

accompanying the stealthy tap of the Commons stenographers and the scratching of a score of reporters' pencils, so that it can all be published today. The committee room looked packed, crushed, over-lit and sweaty. Nobody else submits to questioning like this without legal aid, and all the Chancellor had was his assistant, Nigel Wicks, who would scribble notes furiously while Lamont stalled with phrases such as "and can I just add, while we're on this subject..." (scribble, scribble) "one further point, and I think, an important one..." (scribble, scribble) and it's this (Chancellor glances at note, trying to decipher) "M0, M1 and M2..."

When the Chancellor was not glaring at his notes, he was staring in a strangely fixated way at both his cuffs, which had emerged completely from the ends of his jacket arms. I briefly considered the possibility that the government's new economic policy may have been written on his cuffs, but dismissed it. One cuff would have been more than sufficient.

## Chancellor digs in his heels over handling of sterling

BY ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

NORMAN Lamont yesterday staunchly defended his actions in the days leading up to Black Wednesday, September 16, and the action he took on the day in his vain attempt to keep sterling in the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that since that time he had neither heard nor read anything that suggested that the outcome could have been different.

Mr Lamont's comments were made in evidence to the emergency meeting of the Commons Treasury select committee. During a tough grilling that lasted almost two hours, he fended off sharp criticisms from Tory as well as Labour MPs and firmly rejected suggestions that the government had not seen the crisis looming. He said that ever since the French referendum had been announced the government knew that there would be difficulties in the foreign exchange markets.

Ministers had not wanted to leave the ERM, he said. But problems had arisen, in part because of the high cost of German reunification.

"Our intention is to resume our membership of (the ERM) in due course, but only when a number of important conditions are met. Perhaps the most fundamental point is that we would not be prepared to rejoin until the requirements of German and United Kingdom monetary policy are much more aligned than they are today."

He made clear his fear that a falling pound could put inflation at risk. "I have demonstrated we are prepared to take tough measures to keep inflation down," he said.

Mr Lamont rejected suggestions from committee members that there had been talks behind the scenes about re-aligning sterling within the ERM, and he defended the decision to enter the mechanism two years ago at DM2.59. It was close to the

market rate at the time and leaders of industry thought that the rate was right, he said.

Mr Lamont said that now the pound was no longer in the ERM the interest rates would be set after taking into account a number of indicators, such as the money supply. It was simply not realistic to put monetary policy or interest rate policy on "auto-pilot". A considerable degree of judgment was required, and even now he would have to continually exercise his judgment about the level of interest rates required to meet inflation objectives.

But Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, said: "Given the way you exercised your judgment during the sterling crisis, it is probably the last judgment on earth that the markets are going to believe."

The Chancellor retorted: "I do not accept that for one minute, and I have yet to have it demonstrated to me by you or anyone else what judgment was wrong during the week leading up to Black Wednesday."

Giles Radice (Durham North, Lab) said that in view of the Chancellor's erroneous predictions over the years about the end of the recession "would you not agree that the best service you can give to the British economy is actually resign?"

The Chancellor retorted: "I don't agree with that. Thank you very much."

In another sharp clash, Mr Radice accused the Chancellor of saying one thing in a letter to the committee and another to the Tory party conference. "You say different things to different audiences and that is why you are not trusted anymore," he said. Again Mr Lamont dismissed the allegation, saying the two statements had been consistent.

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Leading article, page 19  
Cautious Lamont, page 23



John Watts: has a reputation for being tough and shrewd

## Shrewd MP is unlikely inquisitor

BY PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Watts is an unlikely grand inquisitor. Chaired yesterday's televised questioning of Norman Lamont was by far his most prominent public role during nine years as an MP. Typically he chose to be an unassuming chairman, letting the committee members take the lead.

Since being elected Tory MP for Slough in 1983, he has seldom courted publicity and his comments have rarely been noticed. Mr Watts is that unusual phenomenon, an MP who underestimates himself. He can give the impression of being a bluff right-winger, a Thatcherite from the outer fringes of London. That, and the appearance at times of being indolent, explain why he has not become a minister when less talented contemporaries have.

He is certainly on the right of the party. He supports the restoration of capital punishment, opposes abortion and takes a tough line on immigration. As leader of Hillingdon Borough Council, west London, in 1978-84 he was in the vanguard of the new Tory approach to local government.

Mr Watts, 45, is part of the same Cambridge generation as Richard Ryder, Tory chief whip, and David Mellor, former heritage secretary. Like them, he was university Conservative Association chairman and had a reputation for being tough and shrewd.

If he has, so far, missed out on a ministerial career, he is well on the way to becoming a pillar of the Tory backbenches.

## Resilient fighter goes the distance

BY PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

NORMAN Lamont's appearance before the Treasury committee was, like most such heavily hyped events, an anticlimax. To use a boxing metaphor, seemingly inescapable on such occasions, no one landed a knockout blow, nor should one have been expected. Mr Lamont may not be an unconquerable champion, but he is resilient and wily enough to absorb the obvious blows from the committee. It was crude and brutal at times, but the chancellor has survived.

A better metaphor might be that the government faces a long-distance obstacle course. Each obstacle is depicted as make-or-break, when each is just one more hurdle to be cleared, with several more ahead. Last week, John Major and Mr Lamont overcame the hurdle of the Tory party

## POLITICAL COMMENTARY

conference, the former in somewhat better shape than the latter. And yesterday, in evidence to separate Commons committees, Mr Lamont and Douglas Hurd cleared further hurdles.

Mr Lamont filled out his statement of last Thursday. He disappointed the pure monetarists and Euro-sceptics by emphasising the importance of the exchange rate, in view of the need to hold down inflation, and by indicating that the cabinet's aim is still to re-enter the exchange-rate mechanism when German and British monetary conditions are more in line.

But the test will now be deeds rather than words; whether, or more probably when, he can announce a further cut in interest rates.

His difficulty, as yesterday's questioning showed, is the damage to his credibility from the past month's events. Perseverance, that may make his actions more cautious.

Mr Hurd was less in the public spotlight yesterday. But his immediate task is as difficult as Mr Lamont's. Following his talks with the smaller EC countries over the past few days, he again sought to dampen "unreal expectations" about Friday's EC summit in Birmingham. When this meeting was originally fixed in the wake of the débacle of September 16 and the French referendum, the aim was to launch a review of the ERM and to issue a declaration on subsidiarity.

Now, British ministers no longer talk about fault lines in the ERM. Instead, the summit will merely reiterate that finance ministers, who will not be in Birmingham, will undertake "reflection and analysis" on the system.

British officials still hope at least for a statement of principle on subsidiarity, leading to binding guidelines and changes being agreed at Edinburgh, but smaller countries oppose modifications to decision making which, they fear, would work against their interests. So Birmingham is now being seen as a chance to review the situation rather than to take firm decisions.

After Friday's summit lie the hurdles of the autumn economic statement, the promised Commons debate on European policy, the Edinburgh summit in mid-December and the start of the Commons committee stage of the Maastricht bill. None individually will be decisive, but cumulatively they will determine whether the cabinet can keep its European and economic strategies intact.

## Lamont interrogated by MPs

Continued from page 1 again appeared to rule out big reductions in interest rates, stressing time and again the dangers of a weak pound rekindling inflation. He would not take risks with inflation, he said. He did not believe in "kick starting" the economy by some artificial stimulus or device.

Despite offering a strong defence of the way the European exchange-rate mechanism had operated for most of Britain's membership, he said there could be no return until British and German economic policies were in harmony. In particular the interest rate paths in both countries had to be consistent with "sustained growth" being resumed in Britain.

The Chancellor underlined the toughness of the public spending round when he indicated that some capital spending could be at risk. He said that he would "do his best" to safeguard capital projects.

The strong emphasis laid by Mr Lamont on the key conditions for returning to the ERM led some MPs to believe that re-entry would be long delayed. John Watts, chairman of the committee, said last night: "The position is still slightly fudged. But he has set out preconditions that will be difficult to achieve for some time and it probably means that we will not return until well into the future, if at all."

Mr Lamont rejected suggestions that the monetary framework set out since the ERM withdrawal was too discretionary and arbitrary. It was simply unrealistic to put monetary policy or interest rate policy on "auto-pilot."

"I don't think one should make the mistake of thinking that here in this country everything is difficult and confused, in terms of monetary policy, while there is another world where everything is clear and straightforward," Mr Watts suggested

after the meetings that Mr Lamont's position was "stronger than when he went in. He held up well under some fairly rigorous questioning."

But Nicholas Budgen, Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South-west, said: "His difficulty is that the policy he conducted for two years turns out to be a disaster and a humiliation. No amount of intelligence, charm and well-bred advocacy will paper over that disaster."

Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, accused Mr Lamont of pushing people in pursuit of a policy in which he did not believe.

Mr Lamont replied: "That is complete nonsense and I totally reject it."

Asked by the Labour MP Giles Radice whether the best service he could perform would be to resign, Mr Lamont said: "I don't agree with that, thank you very much."

## ERM 'will not change'

Continued from page 1 John Major will dine with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, on Thursday. Aware of the damaged faith in Brussels, Jacques Delors, the Commission president, plans to tell summit leaders that they may be able to throw out Commission ideas for new EC rules that do not conform to the "subsidiarity" principle.

Yesterday evening, M Delors and his 16 colleagues on the Commission, including Sir Leon Brittan and Bruce Millan, met in a four-hour session at their Breydel headquarters to discuss what ground they could give back to member states.

Herr Kohl and Pierre Bérégovoy, the French prime minister, met in Bonn yesterday to prepare for the meeting. The two men also discussed the deadlock over the Galt round which promises to be a key issue on Friday.

Two-speed Europe, page 10

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## IRA terror campaign

## Scotland Yard appeals for calm in wake of Covent Garden bomb

■ The eighth London blast in six days shows that IRA has returned to its early tactics — random attacks on soft targets

BY STEWART TENDLER AND RICHARD FORD

LUNCHTIME drinkers and diners at a West End public house became the latest victims of the IRA yesterday as the terrorists switched their campaign to a random attack designed to cause maximum disruption and panic among thousands of office workers and tourists in central London.

The bombing of the Sussex public house with a timed device left a tactic last seen on the mainland more than 15 years ago. It left five people injured, one of them seriously. All were middle-aged men.

Two of the victims were released from hospital after treatment. The others, including Peter Rooke, 48, the pub

manager, were detained overnight for observation.

John Cracknell, 24, a passer-by who witnessed the explosion, said: "There was glass all over the pavement and some smoke coming out of the building. I ran in through the front door of the pub and downstairs to see if anybody was injured. The stairs were strewn with rubble."

Self Towns, 44, an art student, said he had been about to enter the pub when the bomb exploded, but had stopped to give a passer-by directions. "If I had been three seconds earlier, before I saw this man who wanted help, I would have been in there," he said. "I went in and saw the carnage. The bar was com-

pletely destroyed and there was a man lying there. He looked very ill."

Susan Ware, 24, from Hampstead, said: "There was a loud bang. I felt a whoosh from the blast and then when I looked around people were coming out of the pub with their hands over their ears. I ran away in case there was another."

A man who was working in offices above the public house, which is owned by the Chef and Brewer Group, said he saw the barman being led into an ambulance.

As police began searching the debris, Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, urged the public to be vigilant, but said they should not be deterred from going about their normal business. Police have constantly asked the public not to panic.

Mr Churchill-Coleman said after visiting the scene: "These things are going to happen from time to time." As Yard officers swept up shattered glass from the pavement outside the pub, he said that the aim of terrorists was to stop people carrying on with their lives.

Detectives discount a campaign specifically targeted for the run-up to Christmas, but attacks on public houses will add to concern at the breadth of the campaign and will undoubtedly cause fear among people organising pre-Christmas festivities.

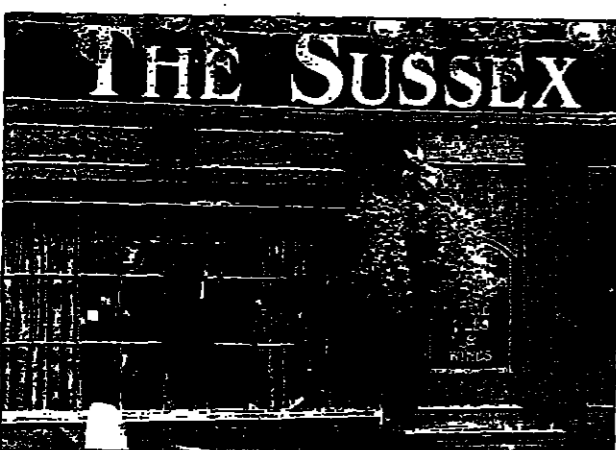
Many of the attacks in the early mainland campaigns were levelled at public houses used by military units serving in Ulster in towns such as Aldershot, Guildford and Woolwich, but there was no such justification for the bombs that blew up two Birmingham public houses in 1974 killing 21 people and injuring 162. The Birmingham pub bombings illustrated the vulnerability of Britain's traditional social meeting places.

Incendiary devices in the past year have damaged two public houses in central London close to the scene of yesterday's attack, but without casualties. Now an active service unit bent on keeping up the pressure of the past week's seven bombs has chosen another soft target. Yesterday's bomb was slipped into the Sussex's toilet during the lunch hour, when staff would have been too busy to keep a careful watch and customers were constantly coming and going.

The suddenness of the attack left customers dazed, some suffering from shock, others injured by flying glass. There was initial calm, but as police and ambulance men swamped the district, panic spread as people began running from the area.

Police have increased their surveillance of London, with more checks in the evenings and the drafting of 200 officers to provide 24-hour coverage around Whitehall. But tighter daytime security would create almost as much disruption as bombs themselves.

Five hurt, page 1  
Diary, page 18



Wrecked: the Sussex after yesterday's explosion

## Only direct rule will end killing in Ulster

BY CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN

THE recent IRA bombings in London are tempting to the IRA both because they attract far more publicity than comparable operations in Northern Ireland and because things have been going relatively badly this year in the province.

The balance of the struggle, which is both political and sectarian on both sides, has swung against the terrorists from the Catholic community.

From the beginning of the systematic lethal violence in 1972 up to and including last year it is the Catholic side which has been on the offensive. But this year saw the Protestants fight back. Government figures show that of the 61 civilians killed by the bombers and gunmen, this year, 43 were Roman Catholics and 18 were Protestants.

The shift in the balance of killing makes London a more attractive theatre of operations for the losing side. The more that the Catholic community in Northern Ireland bears the brunt of terrorist attacks itself the more likely it is that individuals in that community will start providing information about the activities of the terrorists within that community. So the IRA come under triple pressure from the Protestant terrorists, from their own com-

munity and from better-informed security forces.

On the side of the Protestant community, this increase in "hit-for-tar" killings reflects a loss of confidence in the capacity of the British government and its security forces to protect the lives of Protestants.

In the light of these figures, there is an urgent need for a review of security policy. Specifically, the question of internment needs to be reassessed. The talks on "the future of Northern are a distraction from the main problem of security. The talks have virtually no chance of reaching agreement, and even if they did, the agreement would not end or even reduce, the violence.

All that the quest for a political solution suggests to the paramilitaries on both sides is that Britain is desperately anxious to disengage from Northern Ireland. The paramilitaries therefore prepare for the ensuing full-scale civil war.

When these talks fail, the government should accept that there is no substitute for direct rule in Northern Ireland and that they must start ruling instead of endlessly talking. The day that that decision is taken will see the beginning of the end of paramilitary violence in Northern Ireland.

## British chefs invade world's culinary capital

BY ROBIN YOUNG

NINE chefs and *The Times* cook took British cooking to Paris last night, aiming to prove that British cuisine is not as soggy as its climate.

The Fête de la Gastronomie Anglaise, presented last night to 85 invited guests including leading French chefs, food critics and gourmets, was conceived by the Earl of Bradford, owner of Porters Restaurant in Covent Garden and chairman of the Great Britain-Great Food working party set up by the British Tourist Authority.

Lord Bradford said yesterday: "British standards of cooking have improved tremendously but that message has not yet been fully received abroad. We needed to do something wanted to present an unmistakably British meal cooked entirely by British chefs in the heartland of French cuisine."

The celebration had to be

## Pledging to do something audacious, British chefs last night served the best of British food for France's gastronomes

achieved, Lord Bradford pointed out, without the benefit of any budget. Chefs and companies gave their services and provided the all-British ingredients for the six-course banquet served in Les Princes restaurant at the George V Hotel in central Paris.

The captain was David Dorricott, executive chef of the Portman Hotel in London. Alongside him were Sally Clarke of Clarke's Restaurant in Kensington, Paul Gayler of the Lansborough Hotel, Redmond Hayward of Redmond's in Cheltenham, Ann Long of Long's in Truro, Murdoch MacSweeney of the Oakley Court Hotel in Windsor, Sonia Stevenson, formerly of the Horn of Plenty at Gubworthy in Devon, Michael Coaker of the Mayfair Hotel and Claire Clark, pastry chef

from the Portman. The tenth was Frances Bissell, *The Times* cookery writer and a veteran of cooking in hotel kitchens in venues as far flung as Madrid, Manila, Hong Kong and Bangkok.

"We wanted to tackle the derogatory things said about British cooking head on," Lord Bradford said, "so we deliberately chose to serve our main course, partridge with cabbage, to show that British cabbage is not always soggy and over-cooked."

The partridge weren't French, either, but British grey-legs, hung only three days to accord with French taste for less forcefully flavoured game. Mr Gayler explained. The partridge was accompanied by crisp leaves of white cabbage, parsnip, a vegetable seldom encountered

in French restaurants, glazed chestnuts, baby onions and new potatoes.

The main course was preceded by a small cup of oxtail consommé with parsley dumplings. Ms Stevenson said the dumplings were based on a *chow* rather than *suet*, for keeping qualities rather than for fear of rude comments about British stodge. The juice of parsley and lemon thyme had been added with a dash of nutmeg.

Sally Clarke and Ann Long took charge of preparing a "collation of British seafood" that included buttered crab, jellied eels and freshly hot-smoked mackerel that were still warm. Mrs Bissell and Claire Clark prepared the sweet, baked apple crumble with meat ice-cream. The apples were British Cox,

scooped out and filled with Bramley, topped with the crumble mix. The cheese blind tastings had been arranged in London to select Appleby's Cheshire, Montgomery's Cheddar, Sandham's Lancashire, Colston Basset Stilton and James Lane's Gospel Green cheese from Sussex.

The meal was rehearsed and tasted three times by the chefs in London and the ingredients, with a sheath of accompanying paperwork to ensure their safe passage through French customs, had been taken to Paris in a Porters' van on Sunday night.

The chefs started work at 6.30 in the morning and were completing the finishing touches as guests arrived in the evening but they had time to consider adding a few canapés and sweetmeats as extra proofs of the excellence of modern British cookery. The proof of the British pudding will, it was hoped, be in the publicity in the French press this morning.

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

THE country that reveres Jerry Lewis and awarded a cultural decoration to Sylvester Stallone has, not surprisingly, been much exercised over the past two days by a visit from Madonna.

The passage of the reigning queen of outrageous hype through Paris, to promote her new sex book and erotic record, obliterated most other news. Treated to the trappings of a state visitor, including motorcades and

protection by riot police, Madonna spent the weekend expanding to a rapt French audience on the purpose of her "struggle" against intolerance. Aids, homophobia and hypocrisy.

Last night she flew into Luton airport in pursuit of yet more publicity for a book that displays her over-exposed self in 128 pages of photographs.

Today she will record a television chat show with Jonathan Ross, to be broadcast next week, and, according to her London publicist,

will probably go shopping. She is expected to return to the United States for a book launching party on Thursday, at which the only ingredient missing will be the book itself.

The French daily *Libération* claimed yesterday: "Madonna's art is in pushing as far as possible the limit of provocation to kick the rear of an inhibited America," explaining much of the fascination for Madonna in a country which believes it has nothing to learn from anyone about the art of seduction.

The French see Madonna's "in your face" vulgarity as her legitimate weapon against what they are told is America's puritan regime. *Le Quotidien de Paris* hailed her book as "one of the most radical gestures since... the publication of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*".

But sex took second place to the high-point of the royal visit: a long probe of her views on such matters as Bosnia-Herzegovina and welfare policy as the guest of *Sept sur Sept*, a current-affairs programme that nor-

mally interviews presidents and prime ministers. "If one day I'm candidate for the presidency," she told an obsequious interviewer, "I will have one advantage: everyone will know about my past."

Madonna's explicit video for her new single will be broadcast on *Top of the Pops* this week, the BBC decided yesterday. The film which goes with the single *Erotica*, currently at No 11 in the charts, shows nude shots of Madonna, complete with black-out censor strips.

## Businessmen deny breaking Iraq ban

BY PETER VICTOR

THREE businessmen deceived government officials to avoid a ban on the export of military machinery to Iraq, the Old Bailey was told yesterday. They sold lathes, associated tooling and computer software specifically designed to manufacture fuse parts for bombs and missiles needed by Saddam Hussein's armed forces, it was alleged.

Alan Moses QC for the prosecution, said the equipment was bought to produce fuses "to detonate shells, mortars, rockets, air bombs and other military ordnance". Three men, all in senior positions with Matrix Churchill, a Coventry engineering company, gave false descriptions to trade and industry department officials of the use to which the machinery would be put. They also implied it could be used for civilian purposes, he said.

Fred Henderson, 52, of Coventry, at the time managing director of Matrix Churchill, Trevor Abraham, 45, from near Coventry, the former commercial manager, and Peter Allen, 46, of Stoughton, Leicester, the former sales director, deny four charges of being knowingly concerned in the export or attempted export of prohibited goods between July 1988 and August 1990.

Mr Moses said the machin-

ery was supplied and exported by Matrix Churchill under contracts with Cardoen, a Chilean company, and Nassar, an Iraqi company. "All three knew, say the prosecution, that the contracts were for the export of machinery to produce militarily related components. All three were involved in deceiving the DTI."

Mr Moses told the court Matrix Churchill's contracts with Cardoen to export the machinery to Iraq were worth £12.75 million. The defendants gave false descriptions of what the machinery was to be used for and never disclosed its true purpose to the DTI. They pretended it was for general engineering.

"They did so to get round the ban, for if the truth were told about those machines they couldn't be successfully exported under the contracts which were of the greatest importance and value to Matrix Churchill," the British company even agreed to train Iraqis in how to use the equipment once it had arrived in their country, he said.

At the start of the case, expected to last ten weeks, Judge Brian Smedley asked potential jurors to step down if they were employed by the Ministry of Defence, the DTI, the Foreign Office or any of the security services.

The trial resumes today.

## Boy lives after car reverses over him

BY PETER VICTOR

A BOY of five escaped with cuts and bruises after his mother accidentally reversed over him in the family car and then drove back over his body.

Alex Shanks was knocked to the ground and under the wheels as his mother, Pat, moved the car into a parking space. She then drove forward over him, thinking the car was still on top of him. He was rushed to hospital but found to be suffering only from a nasty cut to the head.

The boy had crept behind the family's Ford Cortina to give it a push as his mother moved it to allow a mechanic to examine it outside their home in Hastings, Sussex.

His mother, a wedding photographer, dialed 999 believing he was dead after she discovered him lying in a pool of blood. He was taken by ambulance to the nearby Conquest Hospital.

Sitting by her son's bedside yesterday as he sat up playing with his toys, Mrs Shanks said: "I thought I had killed him. Alex ran up behind the car and he was pretending to push it. I suppose he thought he was helping. I couldn't see him in the rear-view mirror and started reversing. I could feel something go under my wheels and heard a whimpering. I thought it was my worst nightmare come true."

"I panicked. He was trapped underneath the car and I moved forward then I went over him again. I couldn't bear to look and just sat in the car. When I did get out I saw Alex lying there crying. I thought he was dying. He had a horrific head wound. He was covered in blood and you could see through to his skull."

"I was shaking and couldn't bear to pick him up. A neighbour dialed 999 and I went with him in the ambulance fearing the worst. When we got to hospital it seemed like ages before we realised he was all right apart from a very nasty cut."

"I was absolutely amazed and so were the doctors. My car is pretty heavy but they think he survived because the back wheel clipped the top of his head. They said it was incredible he wasn't crushed or hadn't suffered massive internal injuries."

Doctors gave Alex a clean bill of health following a series of tests and ten stitches to his head wound.

## Plumber wins £5,000 for 'cowboy' libel

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A PLUMBER who sued Thames Television for calling him a "cowboy", claiming that he overcharged pensioners, won £5,000 in a High Court libel action yesterday. Sean Hannan, 29, said after the verdict: "I think justice was done."

Thames had paid £155 into court as a settlement offer before the six-day hearing but now faces legal costs estimated at £50,000. The jury took one hour and 40 minutes to find for Mr Hannan, a New Zealander, of Merton Park, southwest London.

Mr Hannan told the court that he was "absolutely appalled" at his inclusion in an item entitled "Money down the drain" during an October 1991 programme in the *Thames in Action* series. He claimed the attack was biased, unfair and put him in a "chamber of horrors".

He was working for a company called Aabacare in September 1991 when he was

called out to an address in Teddington, west London, by Monica White, 64, to deal with a blockage.

Unknown to him, he was filmed by Thames as he dealt with a "set-up" test, devised by the National Association of Plumbing, which had put a cement bag down a drain. He spent two hours working at the site and charged Mrs White a total of £41, at a rate of £30 per half hour, or part of, plus VAT.

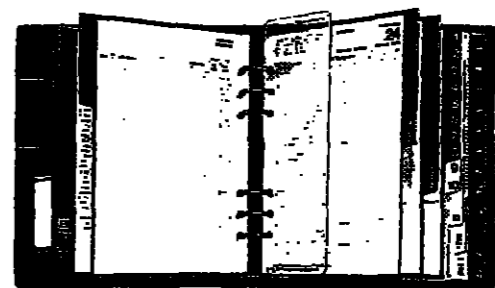
Thames denied libel, pleading justification and fair comment. It claimed it was a simple job which should have taken Mr Hannan 30 minutes and cost Mrs White £35.

Mr Hannan told the jury that the cement bag in the drain had solidified. After dealing with it, he had tried to find out how it got there and whether there were any others. He checked the amenities and tidied up. He denied putting earth down a drain, as Thames had alleged.

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## Challenger 2 rejection angers Vickers

## Kuwaitis accused of giving in to Americans over tank deal

BY MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

KUWAIT was accused yesterday of giving in to political pressure from Washington, after confirmation that Britain's Challenger 2 tank had been rejected in favour of its American rival in a £1 billion deal for 236 tanks.

There was also anger at Vickers Defence Systems, manufacturers of the Challenger 2, after Ghazi Al-Rayes, Kuwait's ambassador in London, said the British tank developed "snags" during trials in the Kuwaiti desert in August. The ambassador also said the presentation of Challenger 2 was "not up to the standard" of the American M1A2 Abrams tank.

He denied it was a political decision. "Britain and the United States are our friends, we just chose the best tank," he said.

Sir Colin Chandler, chief

**■ Britain's failure to win a £1 billion tank contract with Kuwait has led to accusations of last-minute political arm-twisting by Washington**

executive of Vickers, which employs 1,800 people at Newcastle upon Tyne and Leeds, dismissed the claim that Challenger 2 had been outgunned and outclassed in the Kuwaiti trials. "Challenger 2 successfully destroyed targets beyond 3,000 metres, whereas the M1A2 couldn't do it beyond 2,000 metres."

The Ministry of Defence was informed verbally of the decision yesterday only after a British embassy official in Kuwait was given the news. Sources at Vickers blamed the defeat on strong political lobbying by the US government, in particular a last-minute letter from Richard Cheney,

the US defence secretary. But the company did not criticise the British government. "Our government has given us tremendous support," a spokesman said.

The spokesman said: "We think it is as a result of intense political lobbying by the US government during the run-up to their election. Naturally we are disappointed and we are surprised. We were expecting to win. But it won't have any effect on jobs. We have still got an order book worth about £7 million covering five years work and we are still promoting Challenger 2."

David Clelland, Labour MP for Tyne Bridge, who repre-

sents many Vickers workers on Tyneside, said: "It's quite clear this decision is a political decision. It's timed to give President Bush the flip he needs. That's what it's about. It's nothing to do with technicalities."

Exports of the Challenger 2 are crucial for the future of Vickers, which last year won a much smaller than expected order for 140 tanks from the British defence ministry. If the company fails to win exports, a yawning gap in its production book will open up in two to three years.

A defence ministry spokesman said: "This is obviously very disappointing news for Vickers. The government gave its full backing and support to Vickers and we share in their disappointment."

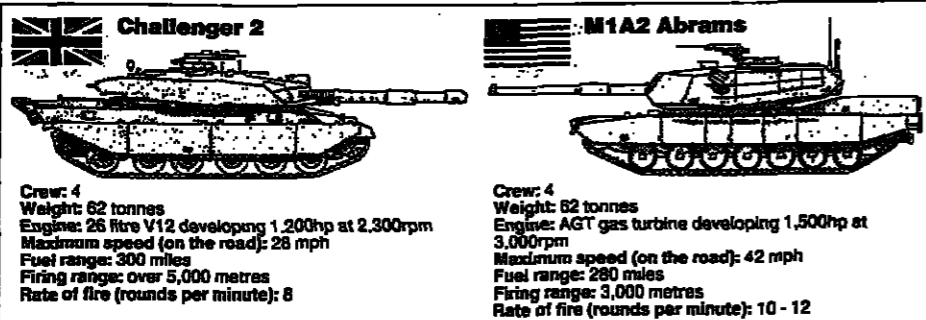
The fear now is that the Kuwaiti decision could have a knock-on effect throughout the Gulf and that other countries wanting to buy Western tanks will also go for the M1A2.

Jobs for nearly 2,000 people hang on the success of the Challenger 2 tank. Although Vickers was quick yesterday to reject suggestions that the loss of the Kuwaiti order would bring immediate redundancies, the long-term fate of the two identical production lines at Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne depends on new contracts being secured (Paul Wilkinson writes).

In spite of company officials claiming there was plenty of work in hand and new markets were still being tapped there was undisguised anger at the way in which the Kuwaiti deal was snatched from them.

Late yesterday afternoon the tank builder's parent company Vickers Plc issued a statement from its London headquarters saying it still had not received official confirmation that the order had gone elsewhere. "There are of course strong political elements in overseas defence sales and these appear to have played a significant part in Kuwait's decision," it said. Mr Cheney's letter stressed the importance of the deal in maintaining American aid in the Gulf.

Industry reeling, page 25



## Goliath outguns British David

THE competition for lucrative tank deals in the Middle East has generated one of the fiercest promotional campaigns by the two main rival companies — one British, one American — with each whispering damning reports of the other's product in the race for the contracts. Long-term survival, jobs, credibility and professional pride hang in the balance.

Vickers Defence Systems in one corner and General Dynamics in the other are not unlike David and Goliath, but this time Goliath is winning. The American giant, based in Michigan and Lima, Ohio, needs the export deals for its M1A2 Abrams tank as much as Vickers, tiny by comparison, needs every contract it can get. If Vickers dies, British independent tank manufacturing dies with it. There are four tank manufacturing countries: the United States, Britain, Germany and France. In the Middle East only the Americans and British are seriously in the running. The Germans, with their Leopard 2, have a policy of

not selling arms to the Middle East and the French Leclerc tank is considered unsuitable.

Vickers was reasonably confident of persuading Kuwait and others to buy Challenger 2 after the defence ministry bought it for the British army. Defence sources said that, in that contest, the American Abrams came third.

However, the desert trials of the M1A2 and Challenger 2 in Kuwait in August were the most important testing ground, because the Americans were convinced that Britain bought Challenger 2 just to save Vickers and 1,800 jobs. While saying nothing officially, the Americans claimed that in gunnery tests against soft targets at a range of less than 4,000 metres, the M1A2 hit ten out of ten and Challenger seven out of ten. They also claimed that, in firing on a slope, the M1A2 hit six out of six targets, Challenger two out of six. Vickers strongly disputed the American claims and put out photographs of an M1A2 being rescued from a sand dune.



Stuck-on art: Senka Loosemore, left, and Kerry Hughes, both 23 and graphic-art students from Croydon College, south London, at the launch yesterday in Bradford of the Royal Mail stamp marking the inception of the single European market, designed from their concept by Bradford-based artist David Hockney

## Queen to visit new Germany

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Queen will take her first step into the former communist empire of eastern Europe next week when she pays a state visit to Germany to celebrate the country's reunification. According to the Duke of Edinburgh, she will walk through the Brandenburg Gate into the former East Berlin on her last visit in 1987; to celebrate the city's 750th anniversary, the wall was still standing.

During her five-day visit, her third since she came to the throne, the Queen will spend a day in the former eastern half of the country, visiting Leipzig where resistance to the communist regime first emerged, and Dresden where, 47 years after one of the most devastating and controversial bombing raids of the war, she will attend a service of reconciliation in the city's cathedral.

Security will be particularly tight during her Dresden visit because of threats by neo-Nazi groups to stage a demonstration while she walks in the city square. Both the British and German governments are anxious to play down the recent row over currency, and hope the state visit will underline longer-term friendships. The Queen's host will be the non-political president, Richard von Weizsäcker.

## Howard to speed up phase-out of CFCs

THE government is expected to decide this week to accelerate its proposed phase-out of CFCs and other chemicals that destroy the ozone layer by a full year to the end of 1994.

If it does so, Michael Howard, the environment secretary, will propose the new date as a target for the European Community. He is chairing the council of EC environment ministers at their meeting in Luxembourg a week today.

Evidence of increasing ozone damage, such as the disclosure in *The Times* yesterday that the Antarctic ozone hole has for the first time passed over inhabited areas in South America and the Falklands, is putting growing pressure on governments all over the world to accelerate the CFC phase-out timetable.

Under the Montreal Protocol, the international community is only committed to abandoning CFCs by 2000, but the treaty is due to be renegotiated in Copenhagen next month.

"The revelation that the ozone hole has spread to inhabited areas of the planet must compel ministers to act this week and bring forward the phase-out date," Chris Rose, programme director for Greenpeace UK, said. "Alternative technologies exist — we don't need these chemicals." The EC has already committed itself to phase-out by January 1, 1996, but discussions are going on in Whitehall this week about the possibility of bringing this forward to January 1995; the environment department is committed to the earlier date.

Any practical difficulty in Britain will not be with British CFC producers, which are small, but with the smaller manufacturers in other countries.

Customers for the chemicals, used in refrigeration, air conditioning, and as solvents in electronics manufacture, industrial cleaning and dry cleaning. Accelerated change-over to equipment using CFC substitutes could cause financial difficulties for small firms.

The government is basing its decision this week on two management-consultant studies of these companies and their CFC phase-out problems, due for publication at a Birmingham seminar tomorrow. One study, by Touche Ross, concludes that the end of 1994 is a feasible date for CFC phase-out for the solvent sector; the other, on the refrigeration and air conditioning industries by the March Consulting Group, presents much evidence but leaves ministers to make up their own minds. "There are formidable political arguments for the government bringing the date forward this week. If the EC can go to Copenhagen with a phase-out date of January 1, 1995 it will set the pace for the negotiations."

## Unexciting game ends in draw

BY RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE eighteenth game of the chess match between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky ended in a draw last night. It was a seven-wins-to-nothing American who has emerged from a 20-year hibernation, three to Spassky and eight draws.

Spassky, playing white, was unable to exploit what game expert observers said was a slight early advantage, and the players agreed to the draw after the thirty-sixth move.

Fischer widened his lead to 7-3 on Saturday, winning a game that had been postponed from Thursday after doctors found Spassky, a Russian who is now a French citizen, to be suffering from exhaustion and stress.

Sunday's game was a steady affair compared with the excitement of the previous two encounters. Fischer resorted again to the Queen's Gambit Accepted.

Although Spassky gained what appeared to be significant pressure, this turned out to be largely symbolic and evaporated around the thirtieth move. Game 19 in this world-record match is scheduled for tomorrow.

The thirty-sixth move left only opposite-colored bishops on the board in addition to the players' respective kings and pawns, making a draw inevitable.

The players left the playing hall without any comments to journalists or other observers. Spassky, who led 2-1 after the fifth game, has won only one of the last 13 contests. Experts at the match do not count him out yet, but they say he probably cannot afford to lose any more games.

The first player to win ten games takes the \$3.35 million first prize, and the loser gets the remaining \$1.65 million. Draws do not count.

## GAME 18

White	Black	White	Black
1 d4	d5	20 Nc3	d4
2 c4	e4	21 Nc2	Kc7
3 Nf3	e5	22 Nc3	Kc7
4 e3	Qc7	23 Nc3	Kc7
5 Bc4	Qc7	24 Nc3	Kc7
6 d4	Qc7	25 Nc3	Kc7
7 Qd2	Qc7	26 Nc3	Kc7
8 Bc4	Qc7	27 Nc3	Kc7
9 Nf3	Qc7	28 Nc3	Kc7
10 e4	Qc7	29 Nc3	Kc7
11 Bc4	Qc7	30 Nc3	Kc7
12 Nf3	Qc7	31 Nc3	Kc7
13 Bc4	Qc7	32 Nc3	Kc7
14 Nf3	Qc7	33 Nc3	Kc7
15 Nc3	Qc7	34 Nc3	Kc7
16 Nf3	Qc7	35 Nc3	Kc7
17 Nc3	Qc7	36 Nc3	Kc7
18 Nf3	Qc7	37 Nc3	Kc7

Draw agreed

## Medicine prize goes to US

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

TWO American biochemists were yesterday awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine for discovering how enzymes regulate proteins inside cells, a control process vital to the proper functioning of the body.

Edmond Fischer and Edwin Krebs, both of the University of Washington in Seattle, won the award for their discovery of the process of reversible protein phosphorylation, in which a phosphate group is attached to a protein by an enzyme. Subsequently it has been found that the process is one of the most ubiquitous in biology, controlling the action of insulin, the function of muscles, the switching on of genes, the control of transpiration and the appearance of some cancers.

Dr Fischer, 73, and Dr Krebs, 74, made their initial discoveries in the mid-1950s. Studying muscle cells, which use an enzyme to catalyse the process of converting sugar to energy, they discovered that the enzyme was regulated by the addition and removal of phosphate groups. They isolated the chemical responsible, protein kinase.

Since then a number of protein kinases have been found, which regulate the

**■ The Nobel Assembly has honoured two biochemists whose studies of how cell proteins are regulated help to explain some important processes of life**



Fischer: made initial findings in the 1950s

functions of most of the thousands of proteins in the cell. "Their fundamental finding initiated a research area which today is one of the most active and wide-ranging," the Nobel Assembly said in its citation.

"The innumerable cellular processes regulated by reversible protein phosphorylation concern almost all processes important to life."

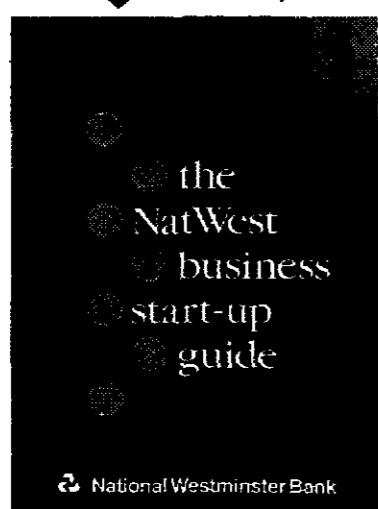
Dr Fischer said yesterday: "I was very overwhelmed, very surprised, very pleased. There is so much beautiful work that is being done in biochemistry, I wonder 'Why me?'"

Dr Fischer works in the University of Washington's department of biochemistry. Dr Krebs works in the departments of pharmacology and biochemistry at the university's medical school. The prize, worth about £700,000, will be shared between them.

Dr Costa Galante, a member of the assembly, said that the work had great impor-

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*Johnnie Walker*

'Drugs charges destroyed reputation'

## Yard pays £50,000 for false imprisonment

BY STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard has agreed to pay a west London community leader £50,000 and court costs to settle his action for false imprisonment, assault and malicious prosecution by police after a drugs raid in Notting Hill in May 1989, the High Court was told yesterday.

The settlement will go to Frank Critchlow, founder of the Mangrove Community Association, but yesterday Patrick O'Connor, counsel for Mr Critchlow, told Mr Justice Omon that the Yard still refused to apologise for events in Notting Hill in May 1988.

Mr O'Connor told the court that Mr Critchlow claimed officers had conspired together and fabricated drug allegations to destroy or damage his reputation. "His arrest and trial, and the criminal allegations made against him, attracted very considerable publicity. He considers that the wrongs done to him can never be repaired and can

■ London police are paying thousands of pounds in damages each year. The latest case follows drugs charges against a black community leader

never be forgotten by him. He brought these proceedings to vindicate his reputation and to bring the officers responsible to account."

Mr Critchlow, a well-known figure in west London, was arrested in a raid on the All Saints Road area of Notting Hill and charged with possessing heroin and cannabis with intent to supply and permitting the supply of heroin, cannabis and other drugs. He pleaded not guilty at Knightsbridge Crown Court in June 1989 and was acquitted of all charges by the jury.

The raid on the community association was carried out by officers from Notting Hill police station. Mr O'Connor said Mr Critchlow was forced to the ground by Det Con Steven Wheatley, who was

then assisted by Det Con Adrian Dale. His hands were handcuffed behind his back and he was kept face down on the ground for about 20 minutes, with the two officers sitting on his back and a third placing a foot on his face. The handcuffs were removed only after he had been taken to the police station, where he was detained for eight hours.

DC Wheatley claimed he had seen Mr Critchlow throw a quantity of small plastic bags on the floor. Together with DC Dale, he also claimed he had found quantities of heroin and herbal cannabis on Mr Critchlow. Other officers claimed to have found cannabis and cocaine on the premises.

Mr Critchlow did not get bail for five weeks and faced strict and restrictive bail conditions. He relied substantially on the fact that acquittals were returned at nine other trials of people arrested at the premises and charged with drugs possession on what he alleged was fabricated evidence.

After the hearing, Mr Critchlow hugged his lawyers and supporters and said: "The only way to get rid of racism and corruption is by cases like this. Where it is found among police officers, they should be brought to book. They are damaging to the black community, not only in Notting Hill but right through the community. When a black person gets a false conviction, he can't get a job and it can lead to a worse situation."

The Yard said a disciplinary investigation into the case was still under way. It was hoped Mr Critchlow would now co-operate. The award means that so far this year the Yard has paid out £347,900 in damages. In all of 1991, £471,599 was paid.



Time heals: a couple walking yesterday on Toys Hill where natural growth has repaired most of the damage left by the hurricane



Storm damage: devastated Toys Hill in 1987

## Life returns as nature heals the scars left by the storm of 1987

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

AT TOYS HILL near Sevenoaks, in Kent, a pleasant wooded glade was left looking like a first world war battlefield after the great storm of October, 1987. Five years on, natural regrowth has almost hidden the scars left by those hours of fury and destruction.

During the night of October 15-16 hurricane-force winds ripped through the National Trust woodland, which was dangerously exposed at 800ft above sea level, toppling or damaging an estimated 90 per cent of the 400 acres of hardwood trees.

Throughout southeast

England, about 15 million trees were flattened, amounting to 4 million cubic metres of timber, the equivalent to what would normally have been felled over five years in the worst affected counties. But some wildlife may have gained from the timber industry's loss, scientists say.

Pat Morris, a zoologist at London University, said: "When the trees were blown down, clearings were created and regrowth of all kinds sprang up, bringing food within reach of deer, for example. More sunlight was let into the shrub layer which is where the berries and nuts are produced that are good

for dormice and other small mammals."

Even bats and squirrels, which live in hollow trees and depend on them for their food, seem to have survived the great storm better than expected. In the winter after the hurricane many bats found so many insects to eat that they forgot to hibernate.

Clearance of about 65 per cent of wind-blown trees was completed by January 1989. Conservationists say, however, that the woodlands that recovered best were those least disturbed by attempts to tidy up. The use of machines often did more harm than good.

## MP libel challenged

THE Essex businessman ordered to pay £150,000 for libelling Teresa Gorman, the Conservative MP, challenged the verdict and damages in the Court of Appeal yesterday. Anthony Mudd claims, among other things, that the jury was misdirected by the judge.

Mr Mudd, 62, of Billericay, is seeking either a retrial of the whole action, a retrial of the damages issue or a reassessment of the damages.

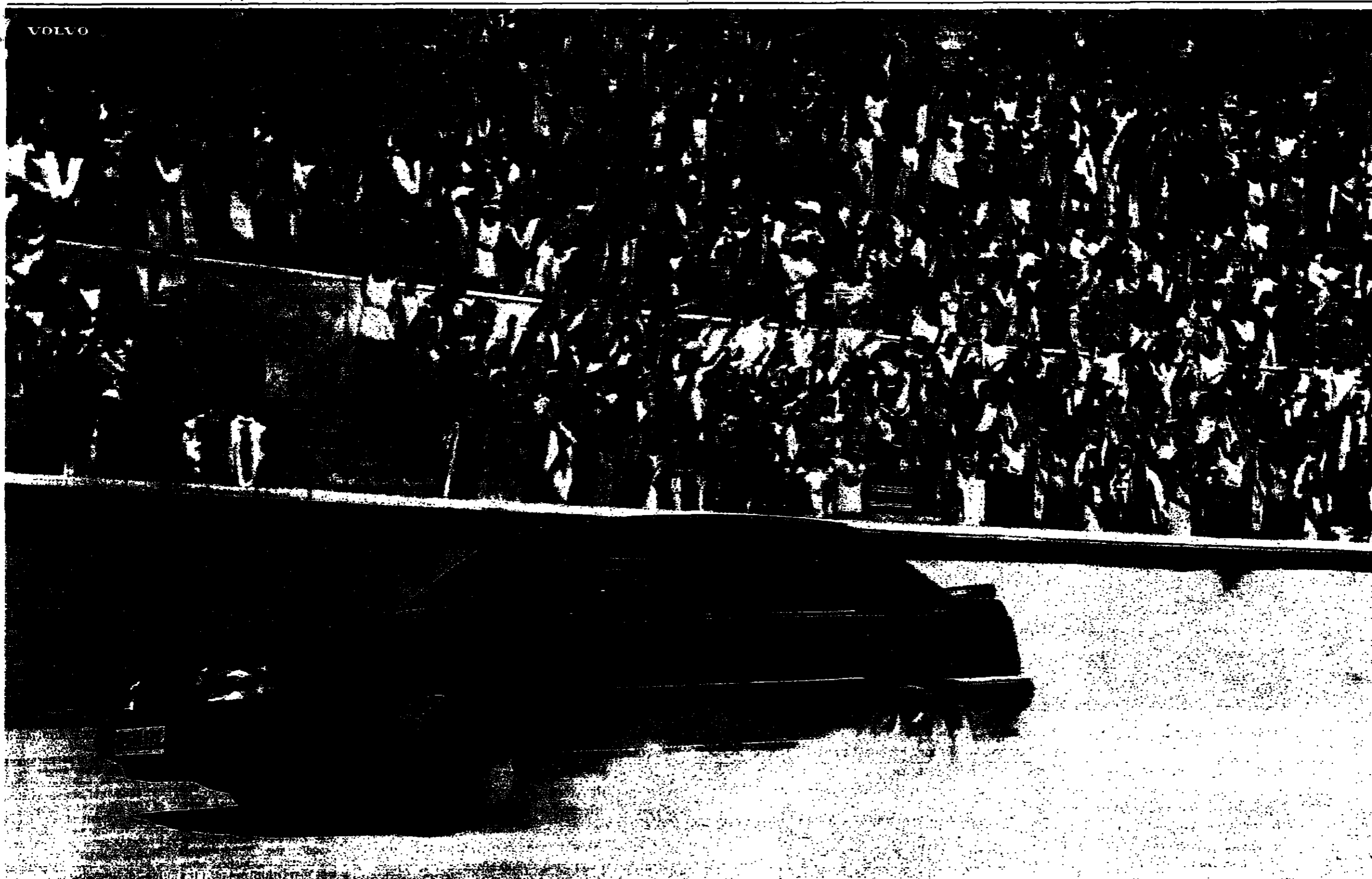
David Eady QC told Lords Justices Neill, Russell and Rose that the case "could be viewed as something of a storm in a tea cup". It focused on details of transactions that took place in a political party four to five years ago.

In the High Court trial in June 1991, the jury decided that Mr Mudd had libelled

Mrs Gorman with malice. Mr Mudd claims that Mr Justice Drake misdirected the jury on the meaning of justification and malice and on the issue of damages.

The libel claim centred on a mock press release circulated to 91 leading Tories in May 1988, accusing Mrs Gorman, 60, MP for Billericay, of putting personal vanity before Conservative party interests. The release was the culmination of a row between her and Mr Mudd that had begun over allocation of dinner seats at the House of Commons to the Billericay Conservative Businessmen's Association, run by Mr Mudd. It accused her of opposing Mr Mudd's association out of personal spite and vanity.

Legal argument in the appeal is expected to last a week.



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# Government plans to break up BR into rival franchises

By MICHAEL DYNES,  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail will be divided into 30 to 40 separate businesses reflecting local or regional identity under proposals for franchising passenger services to private sector operators contained in a consultation document published yesterday.

The design, duration, and geographical extent of each franchise will be decided after consultations with prospective operators, the document said. A "substantial volume" of passenger services will be franchised within the lifetime of the current Parliament.

Outlining the government's proposals, John MacGregor, the transport secretary, said: "We have taken quite a deliberate decision not to lay down a rigid blueprint for franchises. The private sector may well want to suggest different approaches for different types of service, and I want to make sure that the franchising system is flexible enough to accommodate their ideas."

The document, *The Franchising of Passenger Rail Services*, which develops the government's rail privatisation proposals announced in July, lays down how private

Private sector companies will be free to set fare levels under proposals to break up the national rail network into up to 40 passenger franchises

sector companies should go about submitting bids to take over BR's passenger services, while specifying in some detail what rights and obligations franchises will entail.

Although each franchise will be tailored to cater for local needs, services will be grouped in a way that makes commercial sense, while promoting competition, the document said. Franchisees would be responsible for maintaining all aspects of train operations.

Franchisees would generally be free to set fare levels, although restrictions would be imposed where the railways enjoyed a dominant market position, as in the case of Network SouthEast commuter services. Franchisees would be responsible for bearing operating costs and collecting revenue, while being free to project their own brand image.

Once ministers have decided how passenger services should be grouped for fran-

chising, private sector companies would be invited to compete for individual franchises through a competitive tendering process. "Franchising will be undertaken progressively rather than in a single big bang."

A new Franchising Authority would be created when the rail privatisation bill, which is expected to be submitted to Parliament in November, receives Royal Assent during 1993. The Franchising Authority would be responsible for arranging the competitions for granting franchises, the first of which is expected to start in 1994.

The head of the Franchising Authority, who would be appointed by the transport secretary, would be responsible for monitoring the performance of the franchisees during the franchise period. "If the franchisee fails to perform to the required standard he will be in breach of contract and liable to penalties including, in the last resort, the loss of the fran-

chise," the document said. The authority's head would be responsible for specifying the quality of rail services and fare levels where necessary.

Private sector companies wishing to run BR's passenger services would have to obtain an operator's licence from the Rail Regulator, a new authority which would be created by the rail privatisation bill to protect passenger interests, promote competition, and maximise the use of the rail network. "The licence will be a certificate of competence to operate one or more aspects of railway activities," the document said.

BR has been prohibited from bidding for the new franchises. Ministers are, however, encouraging management-employee buy-outs. Jimmy Knapp, the general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union, said: "No amount of consultation will remove the basic truth that franchisees will only be interested in the most lucrative routes and that must lead to onset of reductions and closures of services around the country."

□ *The Franchising of Passenger Rail Services*, Transport Department, Railways 2a, Room S18/17, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.



Level best: Neil Caldicott, 18, of Torquay, Devon, was named the Associated Examining Board's A-level student of the year yesterday. Mr Caldicott, a Torquay Boys' Grammar School pupil, is now at Mansfield College, Oxford

## Law Society proposes alternative to fixed fees

By FRANCES GIBBS  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Law Society yesterday made a last-ditch attempt to head off the Lord Chancellor's proposals for fixed fees in magistrates' courts after calls last week from legal aid lawyers for a campaign of national opposition.

With just three months before the government's deadline to bring in fixed fees for criminal legal aid work, the Law Society steered away from endorsing any kind of nationwide industrial action. Instead it put forward an alternative scheme of payment for magistrates' courts work, a compromise formula aimed at ending the long-running dispute between the profession and the government, which the society said had become "stale and arid".

At the same time, the society is taking legal advice on the prospects of taking the Lord Chancellor to court through judicial review if he fails to take its new proposals on board and proceeds with his own fixed fees scheme.

At a meeting last Friday of more than 100 representatives of local law societies, solicitors reiterated their opposition to the fixed-fees proposals and called on the society to co-ordinate some kind of national action against them.

Although the strength of opposition in some parts of the country, notably the West country and Shropshire, has prompted solicitors to withdraw from duty solicitor schemes, the extent of the resolve among the majority of the 3,000 criminal practitioners affected by the scheme is unclear.

Yesterday, the society said it was conducting a survey to ascertain what solicitors would do, including whether they would pull out from duty schemes, in the event that Lord Mackay of Clashfern proceeded with his fixed fees.

The new proposals are a compromise between fixed fees and the present system of hourly rates. Cases would have a "core" price, and then extra fixed payments would be added on, like building blocks, according to how much extra work a solicitor did. The price of each case could be worked out by the Legal Aid Board "simply by ticking a box", the society said.

The system is aimed at meeting what the society says is the failure of the government's proposals to guarantee the quality of solicitors' work while giving the government control over the cost of each case. It would take account of the different criminal justice procedures in the magistrates' courts brought in on October 1 by the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

The alternative proposals have been drawn up by the society's consultants, Touche Ross, on the basis of a report compiled for Lord Mackay by another firm of management consultants, Price Waterhouse.

That report identified defects in the government's proposals, saying that a "price per case" model, such as that drawn up by the Law Society, would have "very real advantages".

## University newcomers score well

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SOME of the former polytechnics are placed above the traditional universities in rankings for the main subject areas, published today in the second part of *The Times* Good University Guide.

Sheffield Hallam and Manchester Metropolitan universities, both polytechnics until this summer, win places in the top ten for business and management. Several others rank in the top 15 for the seven subject groupings.

As in the overall ranking, which appeared yesterday, Oxford and Cambridge emerge as the top universities, taking the leading places for languages, science and the humanities. Manchester University and Imperial College, London, share top billing in science.

Oxford and Cambridge are bettered in engineering, medicine and social sciences by Imperial, University College, London and the London School of Economics. For business and management, Warwick, Lancaster and Bradford universities come out on top.

David Harrison, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, and John Stoddart, chairman of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, said in an open letter to *The Times*: "We believe the tables are wrong in principle, flawed in execution and constructed upon data which are not uniform, are ill-defined, and in places demonstrably false."

University guide, page 16

## I say, spod, did you get a Patty Hearst?

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TO KNOW the difference between a "Desmond" and a "Douglas" or a "spod" and a "boatie" may not be an obvious sign of academic excellence, but in Oxford colleges it can mark out the old hand from the novice. Students have now published a guide to university jargon to help freshmen with the arcane mysteries of "Oxfordepeak".

The glossary, which appears in the student union's freshmen's guide, explains that a "Desmond" is a lower second class degree or 2.2, named after Desmond Tutu, while a "Douglas" is a third, in honour of Cambridge graduate Douglas Hurd. For the "spod", the library-bound bookworm, the highest accolade that Oxford can offer is a Patty Hearst: a first.

On the other side of the athletic fence to the spod is the "boatie", the rowing fanatic who arrives on the towpath at about the same time that rugby enthusiasts, or "rugger-buggers", are getting to bed after a night on the tiles. Female freshmen are also warned of "rugger-buggers' lascivious attentions, or 'sharking'".

Almost every form of activity, or inactivity, practised by the Oxford student has a

place in this obscure lexicon. Keen actors are "thesps", while "vegging" describes the semi-animate undergraduate sitting around in the junior common room.

Emma Carmel, editor of the booklet, said it was intended to strip away some of the Oxford myth and give freshmen "a flavour of what life is really like in this myth-laden institution."

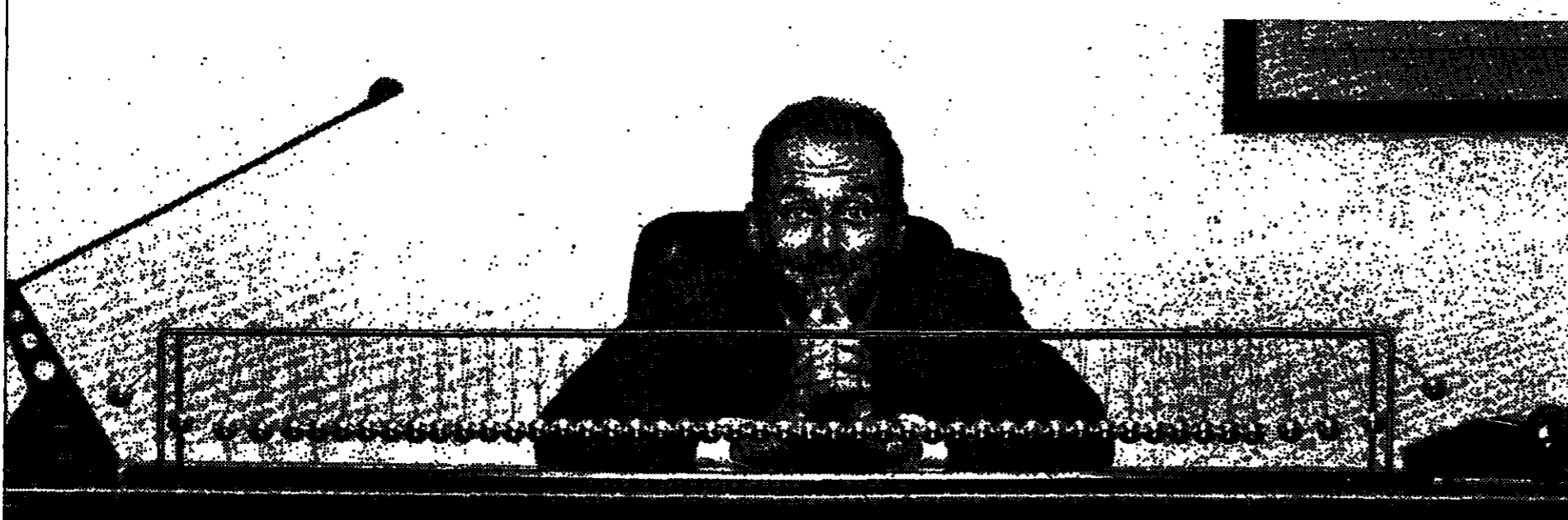
"What kind of people might you meet, what might their attitudes be, will you be able to understand one word in ten of Oxfordepeak? Fitting in is very important when you are new. We hope we've given the freshmen a sense of Oxford and its atmosphere."

Jargon is one of the few ingredients in college life not included in today's Good Universities Guide in *The Times*, but university-watchers have often remarked that Oxford leads the field in obscure terminology.

Geoffrey Skelsey, assistant registrar at Cambridge University, said that Oxford had more jargon than Cambridge. "People talk about 'the High' to mean the High Street and the House to mean Christ Church," he said.

University Guide, page 16

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## Doctors identify victims of hidden smoking epidemic

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HOSPITAL admissions of children under five could be cut by 17,000 if they were not exposed to their parents' smoking, researchers said yesterday as the Health Education Authority published figures showing that nearly one in two of the population was exposed to other people's smoke.

Half the households in Britain contain at least one smoker and four million children aged ten or under live with a mother or father who smokes, the figures show. Evidence is growing that children who live in smoking households are shorter and have reduced in-

telligence, have smaller airways in their lungs and suffer more asthma and respiratory infections, doctors said.

Dr Ann McNeill, smoking education manager at the authority, said the figures were the first to show the extent of the "hidden smoking epidemic". The proportion of parents smoking is lowest in the South East at 42 per cent and highest in Wales at 58 per cent. "Throughout life, from conception to adulthood, one in every two people in the UK is exposed to passive smoking in the home," she said.

Dr Warren Lennay, consultant paediatrician at the Royal

Alexandra Hospital in Brighton, said that the ill-effects of smoking were greatest during pregnancy, probably because of the effects of nicotine on the growing lung and on the developing immune system. Babies of smoking mothers had a higher risk of miscarriage, were more likely to be born prematurely and were smaller. Estimates in the United States suggest that if mothers did not smoke, 8.5 per cent of the budget for the hospital care of new-born babies would be saved, he said.

He cited research showing that up to a quarter of cot deaths might be linked with

smoking. Allergies are five times more common among children of smokers and cases of glue ear are 30 per cent more common.

National figures show that among adults one in six deaths is attributable to smoking but in some northern areas, the figure rises to one in four. At launches in London, Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh yesterday, the authority published details of death rates and hospital costs for smoking for each UK and European parliamentary constituency in nine volumes entitled *The Smoking Epidemic - A Manifesto for Action*.

Worst constituency in the country is Knowsley North, near Liverpool, where 161 of the 674 deaths a year are estimated to be related to smoking, 23.8 per cent of the total. Nine out of the ten worst constituencies in the country are in the north. The exception is Newham South in east London which is eighth worst.

Maidstone has the lowest proportion of smoking related deaths at 13.1 per cent followed by Exeter with 13.2 per cent. Low death rates were also recorded in Orkney and Shetland and northern Scotland.

Dr McNeill said that even in Maidstone one in eight people died from smoking and the constituency spent more than half a million pounds a year on treating people with smoking related diseases using 12 hospital beds daily. In Knowsley north the cost was nearly £700,000 and 15 beds were used daily. "These figures show the drain the smoking epidemic is having on resources in the health service," she said.

Donald Reid, head of programmes at the authority, said that the government's target of reducing the proportion of adults who smoke from the current 30 per cent to 20 per cent by 2,000, as set out in the Health of the Nation white paper, would not be achievable without a ban on tobacco advertising. "On present trends we will only be down to 23 per cent by 2,000 and will have missed the target by quite a margin," he said.



Facing the future: Peter Worth, director of the Butterfly and Falconry Park at Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, with a Parnassius butterfly, one of four that are the first to be hatched in Britain, as part of a conservation scheme. The park has received ten chrysalides from Papua New Guinea, the only place the butterfly breeds

## Vase thieves left replicas

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

THIEVES who escaped with two seventeenth century Japanese vases worth £100,000 from a mantlepiece at the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, in County Durham, left cheaper 19th century imitations in their place.

Elizabeth Conran, the director of the museum, said: "It was a very clever theft. The thieves managed to

diddle our security systems." The 15-inch high Kakiemon vases turned up on the London market where they were bought by the dealers Spink & Son. When a museum expert recognised them and suggested their true origin, Spink handed them back to the museum, leaving itself out of pocket. Now the company is in dispute with

the Edinburgh dealer from whom it bought the vases. According to English law, right of title remains with the original owner, even when the object repeatedly changes hands.

Oliver Impey, a curator at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, told how Richard Barker, then an expert at Spink, had proudly produced pictures of their new vases. "We were just thinking how wonderful they were, when I noticed how damaged they were and said they looked remarkably like the ones in the Bowes Museum."

Superficially, the vases resembled some examples at Hampton Court palace, but they were particularly rare because of their enamel colouring, he said.

Kakiemon wear is named after a 17th century maker, Kakiemon I Sakaida, and features paintings of birds and flowers on a white background.

The situation would have been different if the vases had been taken abroad. Title for stolen goods can pass to the purchaser in some countries, including Japan.



Back on show: the vases at the Bowes Museum

## Confused GPs fail menopausal women

BY LIN JENKINS

DOCTORS are failing women wanting treatment for problems associated with the menopause, according to a survey published yesterday. Many are confused about hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and make decisions based on out of date information, leading to some potentially dangerous prescriptions.

The survey, conducted among 3,000 women by the Amarant Trust, a charity devoted to promoting greater understanding of the menopause and HRT, found that eight out of ten women being treated by GPs felt that their initial consultation was not long enough for all their questions about the therapy to be answered. Those being

treated in hospital clinics fared better. Patients being prescribed HRT for the first time by their GP spent an average seven minutes in the surgery compared with 35 minutes in hospital clinics.

The survey found that GPs were reluctant to prescribe different treatments to those suffering side-effects on one course. Of those who stopped receiving HRT after less than six months 92.5 per cent had tried only one treatment. Among this group 89.8 per cent were treated by GPs.

Of the nine million women in the post-50 age group between 8 and 10 per cent are thought to receive HRT. In the short term it is prescribed to reduce the symptoms of the

menopause, such as hot flushes and night sweats, and in the long term it protects against cardiovascular disease and brittle bones.

The survey also found that some GPs prescribed the hormone oestrogen to women who had not had a hysterectomy, a practice the charity would question, believing that such women should also receive another hormone to avoid the risk of cancer.

The survey concluded that there was a risk that not enough was done to counsel women about the possible side effects of HRT in the short term, such as fluid retention, breast tenderness and leg cramps. Nor was there a willingness to try different

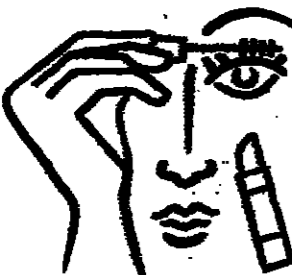
courses of treatments if a patient found the first prescribed did not suit.

Dr Val Godfre, the trust's deputy medical director, said: "Like any medicine HRT can cause side-effects in some women, but it does come in a range of different types." HRT can be taken in tablets, skin patches and implants. "British nurses enjoy their jobs but feel they are overworked and badly paid, according to an independent survey published yesterday, the first to look at the working lives of nurses since the National Health Service Reforms of 1991."

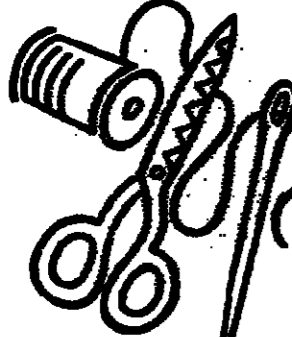
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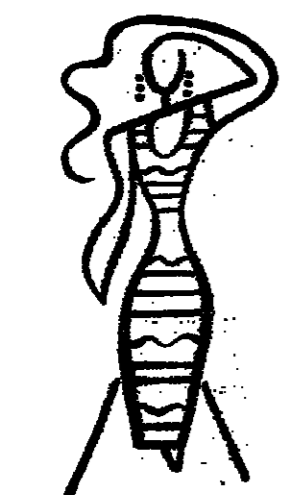
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## Hardliners in Peking bar the road to reform

China is holding its first party congress since the fall of world communism and the Tiananmen killings but the mandarins schooled by Mao still rule out democracy

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

CHINA'S Communist party faithful arrived at the Great Hall of the People in Peking yesterday to meet in congress for the first time in five years and to hear the message that capitalism is all right, up to a point, but democracy is not.

This is the first party congress since the Tiananmen Square demonstrations of 1989 and the collapse of most of the communist world. It would have been a good chance to get to grips with political reform, but instead of reacting to a changing domestic and international situation, Jiang Zemin, the party leader, opted for the head-in-the-sand approach. In his keynote speech to the congress, his comments on political reform were brief and to the point.

"The goal of this reform is to build a socialist democracy suited to Chinese conditions and absolutely not a Western, multiparty, parliamentary system," he said. In his two-hour address, Mr Jiang did urge the implementation of what he called the "socialist market economy". He listed reforms, including freeing prices, making state industry more efficient, keeping government out of enterprise management and experimenting with shareholding. But these measures do not appear to go much further, if at all, than China has gone before and hardly constitute the "new revolution" he referred to in his speech.

The compromises implicit in Mr Jiang's speech suggest that hardliners have toned down Deng Xiaoping's vision of radical economic reform. In January, Mr Deng — who failed to appear at the congress opening — suggested that anything could be done with the economy as long as it benefited the country and the party remained in control. Mr Jiang added another condi-

tion yesterday by saying that public ownership must continue to be the dominant feature of the economy.

Mr Jiang issued a warning: "We must be aware that the market has its own weaknesses and negative aspects." He said that the state plan was an important means of macro-control. Before the congress, some Chinese economists had been hoping that Mr Jiang would drop the word "socialist" from the phrase "socialist market economy", but it has become clear in the past few weeks that hardliners would not accept that. The *China Daily* newspaper yesterday, however, quoted an official as saying that even the phrase "socialist market economy" was regarded by some hardliners as too radical.

Mr Jiang concluded: "We are convinced that a market economy established under the socialist system can and should operate better than one under the capitalist system."

His speech was broadcast live over loudspeakers to surprised Chinese tourists who had come to admire the flower decorations in Tiananmen Square. They found the area cordoned off by police.

True devotees of the communist road are so rare now that the organisers of the party congress were eager to preserve the delegates outside the Great Hall of the People, a fire engine and three ambulances were parked ready for just about any eventuality.

More than 2,000 delegates gathered inside the hall, many of them very old. Three ancient delegates died after being elected, so the number of official delegates which should have been 1,992, in accordance with the date, was reduced to 1,989, an embarrassing reminder of the year party leaders sent the army to fire on demonstrators.

## De Klerk tries to win over white doubters

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN CAPE TOWN

THE gap between what the African National Congress wants and what the white government of South Africa wants to give them was made plain yesterday.

President de Klerk, addressing a joint session of the old tricameral parliament, spelt out what he wants to see agreed before a transitional government can be put in place. He was essentially talking to the doubters in his party and trying to rally those whites who feel already that he has given away too much to the ANC.

Amid heckling from the opposition benches, he insisted that, although "important progress has been made" in settling the constitutional issues for the new South Africa, much has to be done. "We say that agreement has to be reached in advance on the following important matters," he told legislators. He listed a strong and entrenched regional government coupled with adequate sources of revenue, a

bicameral central parliament with a senate able to protect regional issues, and the subordination of legislation to a written constitution and bill of fundamental rights. While the president spoke, representa-

tives of the voteless majority stood outside and made it clear how little they were impressed. "A bald man is going to stand up in the place they call parliament," Joe Slovo, leader of the South

African Communist Party, told 5,000 demonstrators. "He only represents the people who are the same colour as the top of his head." Mr Slovo is also the same colour as Mr de Klerk's head. Mr Slovo, stand-

ing in front of an equestrian statue of General Louis Botha, a dynamic young general of the Boer war and later prime minister of the union, described the present leader of the country as a "Mr Jekyll

and Dr Hyde" who is all sweet reason across a negotiating table, but "when he meets his tribe, when he meets the faithful of the National party, he begins to speak like a platteland (rural) politician".



Under instruction: children peer between the legs of ANC members at a mock trial of President de Klerk in Carltonville, near Johannesburg



## Deng pays bitter price for miracles

FROM JAMES PRINGLE, FAR EAST CORRESPONDENT

The first time I saw Deng Xiaoping was at a state reception in Peking's Great Hall of the People in 1973. The Chinese leaders were coming down the diplomatic receiving line in the usual pecking order when I spotted a pint-sized man in a brown Mao suit, sandals and white socks at a distant Number 12 in the line-up.

"That is Deng Xiaoping," said the official at my side. "His errors were those that occur among the people, not those that occur between the people and the enemy." As the leaders took their seats at the top table, I sped past them to cable that the "Number Two person in authority taking the capitalist road" had been rehabilitated. (The Number One person, former head of state, Liu Shaoqi, was already dead from deliberate lack of medical attention on Chairman Mao's orders.)

Deng's sudden reappearance seemed a good augury at the time, in the later years of the Cultural Revolution. He looked a harmless, amiable old buffer, with his chain-smoking and enthusiasm for bridge. Little did one suspect that he could be as ruthless as Mao himself.

The fact that Deng was a lot tougher than he seemed was reinforced for me after the Tiananmen Square killings in June, 1989. I arrived the day after and saw, to my astonishment, troops who had the same mien and manner as the Khmer Rouge marching in loose formation along Peking's Avenue of Eternal Peace, firing up at the flats of foreign diplomats and at joint venture hotels. There was never any question in my mind but that Deng had ordered the troops out and to shoot — to retain his vision of China's economic reform under the iron grip of the Chinese Communist Party.



Ruthless leader: Deng Xiaoping

It would have been hard to believe, that day in 1973, that 19 years later an 88-year-old Deng would still be leading the party at its 14th Congress, which opened yesterday. Deng had appeared to be in eclipse, but just as the Great Helmsman launched the Cultural Revolution by going to Shanghai and giving the order to "bombard the headquarters", so Deng had to proceed to the Shenzhen special economic zone early this year to put China back on the road to economic reform. It is a reform that, having given the Chinese a taste of the good life, may have saved the party's bacon despite the demise of communism in the Soviet Union.

He cannot feel much satisfaction as he follows the deliberations at this congress: he has performed economic miracles, but at what price?

There is still an enormous gulag, the blood of many of its youth has been spilt, there is a huge diaspora of its best and brightest, and China which, with the retreat of American military power in Asia, is flexing its regional muscles. It is not a scenario that evokes admiration a sense of well-being in places like Hong Kong, soon to return to the motherland.

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## EC officials confirm secret treaty for a two-speed Europe

Manoeuvring ahead of the summit may resolve the problems of Maastricht, but secret deals could lead to a new kind of treaty

By GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND SHEILA GUNN IN LONDON

OFFICIALS of the European Commission last night confirmed yesterday's report in *The Times* that a secret draft of a second Maastricht treaty had been prepared in case the present version fails to be ratified by all 12 EC states.

The officials said that the work was "unofficial, long-range thinking" and was part of an examination of the EC's future options organised after the rejection of the treaty in Denmark's referendum last June.

The Commission's spokesman denied the report, calling it a "fantasy". Denials, which were also issued in Paris and Bonn, that such a contingency plan is official policy of the

Commission or any EC government reflect alarm that speculation about plans for "two-speed" Europe could complicate ratification of the existing treaty.

Other officials acknowledged that a small number of Commission officials, in close contact with like-minded colleagues in the French and German governments, had drafted a "Maastricht II". One official said that "every-one" was trying to answer the question: "What if the treaty fails to pass?" The French and German leaders and Jacques Delors, the Commission president, are genuinely committed to seeing the document, agreed unchanged last year at

Maastricht, ratified by all 12 countries. But their officials have been preparing for the possibility of failure in one or more states.

The most ambitious element of this contingency planning would alter the present method for changing the Community's treaty or constitution. At present, the treaty can only be revised with the consent of all 12 states, a requirement that may not be met if the document fails to be ratified either in the House of Commons or in a second referendum in Denmark.

The new treaty adopts a ratification procedure used to put West Germany's constitution into force in 1949. Each of Germany's 11 regional parliaments was asked to ratify the draft constitution but accepted that it would go into force as soon as two thirds had approved it. Only Bavaria objected, and was forced to fall into line.

Making treaty changes by majority vote in the EC, which would amount to a revolutionary shift of power away from individual states, would satisfy the impatience of the officials in the Commission and elsewhere who feel that European union is forced to happen at the speed of the slowest EC states, because treaty changes can only be made unanimously. But such a radical change is unlikely to happen, since national vetoes are valued by most states. Smaller countries, already fearful that their influence is shrinking, would be unlikely to agree to surrender the power they hold under the present treaty.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, accepted yesterday that some EC officials could be secretly drawing up a post-Maastricht treaty for an inner power bloc. Questioned by MPs about yesterday's report in *The Times*, Mr Hurd insisted that while he believed French, German and EC leaders were "not interested" in forming a fast-speed Europe, he could not rule out the possibility that some officials were "chatting" about the formation of a mini-Europe if the Maastricht treaty is not ratified.

Mr Hurd, giving evidence to an emergency hearing of the Commons foreign affairs committee, issued a warning against the "unreal expectations" for Friday's summit in Birmingham on changes to the exchange-rate mechanism and additions to the treaty. Puffed in opposite directions by furious farmers and its European partners, the French government reached out yesterday for German help to avert a crisis over the world trade agreement at the summit. American and EC negotiators talked for several hours in Brussels without any sign of a significant shift on the farm subsidy deadlock.

Hurd warning, page 1

## Gorbachev ban is explained to Hurd

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ANDREI KOZYREV, the Russian foreign minister, said yesterday that he had held a "frank discussion" with the British government concerning Russia's treatment of Mikhail Gorbachev, the former president.

He said no exemption could or would be made for anyone asked to testify to the constitutional court now examining the ban on the Communist party. "The situation itself is a source of disappointment and sadness for me personally," Mr Kozyrev said. "I talked to Mr Gorbachev and I tried to explain to him that I had supported the perestroika effort for the precise reason to have at some stage an authority such as the constitutional court."

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said people in Britain were concerned because of their interest in freedom of travel as a principle and because of Mr Gorbachev's past contributions. Several European Community countries have openly criticised the confiscation of the building housing Mr Gorbachev's foundation and the ban on foreign travel that has been imposed on him.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, has let it be known that he would like Mr Gorbachev to attend the funeral of Willy Brandt, the former chancellor. Britain has not voiced any public concern, but officials said that they were watching the developments in Moscow.

Mr Kozyrev, on a one-day visit to Britain, had talks with Mr Hurd on the arrangements for the visit here of President Yeltsin, who is due at the end of next month. He also expressed Moscow's concern at the continued fighting in former Yugoslavia, discussed the Middle East peace negotiations and briefed the

British government on the conflicts now raging on Russia's southern borders.

The Russians have been piqued but not surprised at the widespread criticism of President Yeltsin's actions against Mr Gorbachev. They insist that they are not treating him as a post-Soviet dissident. British officials say they have to tread delicately, recognising the issue as an internal one for the Russian government. Britain also wants to support the Russian leader in his uphill struggle to push through his reforms.

John Major and Mr Hurd thanked Mr Kozyrev for the Russians' consular help in visiting Michael Wainwright and Paul Ride, the two Britons sentenced to long terms of imprisonment in Baghdad for straying across the Kuwaiti border into Iraq. Yesterday the Foreign Office summoned Zuhair Ibrahim, head of the Iraqi interests section in London, to demand a response to Britain's repeated requests for access to the two men and a review of their tough sentences. Mr Ibrahim was told that Britain regarded the sentences as disproportionately severe.



Kozyrev: no exemptions for constitutional court



Two of kind: Pierre Bérégovoy, the French prime minister, greets Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, in Bonn, where denials of a secret "contingency" Maastricht treaty were issued yesterday

## Snub for Georgia's new leader

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN TELAVI

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE, the former Soviet foreign minister, emerged yesterday with a decisive personal mandate from Sunday's elections to the Georgian parliament and the de facto presidency.

Mr Shevardnadze, according to preliminary figures, won 90 per cent of the votes cast, three times the amount needed to secure the post of parliamentary chairman which carries presidential powers in all but name.

Voters ignored calls by supporters of the ousted president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, to boycott the vote and have placed their faith in Mr Shevardnadze to avoid all-out war over the breakaway region of Abkhazia. But he received an early setback when President Yeltsin of Russia announced that he was pulling out of peace talks, scheduled to begin today, saying that the Russian side needed more time.

Mr Shevardnadze had said that the meeting would clarify the reasons for the failure of an earlier ceasefire in Abkhazia and hoped that it would avert an escalation of the conflict.

He blamed headline Russian generals for allowing mountain tribes to join the Abkhazian forces in the fighting against Georgia and supplying them with weapons, and hinted that Mr Yeltsin's insistence that the Russian government did not approve of such actions was dishonest.

## Serbs boycott peace talks in Zagreb with 'brutal' Croats

By TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Serbian government refused yesterday to participate in key Croatian-Yugoslav talks in Zagreb. The talks are the first substantive negotiations to take place on the territory of former Yugoslavia this year.

In an undisguised attack on Milan Panic, prime minister of the rump Yugoslavia, the Serbian government said in a statement: "The government of Serbia cannot participate in the Zagreb talks while the Croatian authorities continue to persecute and brutalise the Serbs." It added that Croatia

wanted to reduce the rights of the Serbs in the republic to those of refugees and that Croatian troops were still fighting in Bosnia. It concluded that Serbia "deplored the fact that the federal government overlooks this", thus weakening "Yugoslavia's negotiating position".

Talks on demilitarising Sarajevo fared no better as Bosnian Muslims refused to attend talks sponsored by the United Nations between the warring sides. The Bosnians said that they were boycotting

the talks, the first since June, because Serb forces were renegeing on a commitment to allow the UN to escort engineers to repair water and electricity installations damaged by the war.

In Geneva, Fred Eckhardt, a UN spokesman, said that 90 per cent of repair missions had to be abandoned because of "attacks by one party or the other". He added that attempts were being made to get the talks going.

Last week's summit in Morillon, the UN commander in Sarajevo, reminded the fighters that, if they failed to honour commitments about restoring power and water, they would be contributing to the deaths of up to 400,000 people in Bosnia this winter.

After air raids by the Bosnian Serbs on Gradacac on Friday and Saturday, it was announced in Geneva that agreement had been reached on the stationing of international observers at air bases in Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. However, the accord does not affect Banja Luka air base, where Bosnian Serbs have been flying missions in planes given to them by the Yugoslav air force.

In Serbia's southern province of Kosovo, tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians held peaceful protests demanding the reopening of Albanian language classes. Albanians make up more than 90 per cent of the province's population and a violent conflict has long been expected there.

## Macedonia pursues aid and recognition

By MICHAEL BINYON

KIRO Gligorov, the president of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, arrives here tomorrow for two days of talks expected to centre on his country's economic difficulties, the influx of Bosnian refugees and the continued refusal of the European Community to recognise the republic under the name of Macedonia.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, during his visit to Skopje in July, promised to lobby his EC partners for Macedonia to help the republic cope with 100,000 refugees and the crippling effects of the sanctions against Serbia. Britain has sent a diplomatic mediator to try to

resolve the impasse over recognition of Macedonia, but the summit in Birmingham on Friday is unlikely to reverse the Lisbon summit's decision on non-recognition.

Greek officials say they cannot take the issue before any international court but the government has support from all parties for its tough line over Macedonia. In northern Greece the issue has revived memories of the civil war and the fight against the communists, many of them based in Yugoslavia and backed by Tito. Greece accuses President Gligorov's government of pandering to nationalists.

Leading article, page 19

## P2 chiefs come to trial after 11 years

Rome: The trial of Licio Gelli and other leading members of the P2 masonic lodge on charges of political conspiracy opened yesterday after an 11-year investigation (Philip Willan writes).

Signor Gelli, head of the now illegal lodge which included politicians, magistrates and military officers, is charged with possession of documents covered by state secrecy. According to Francesco Monastero, the examining magistrate, Signor Gelli and Umberto Ortolani, the financial brain behind P2, were able to act as mediators in financial transactions "because of their political position resulting from the possession of sensitive information".

Observers said the trial could mark the end of an era of impunity for influential political lobbies that long were able to exercise power without responsibility. Members of P2 have been accused of involvement in the right-wing coup plots common in the 1970s.

## Missiles threat

Moscow: Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet strategic command head, said he would cut equipment supplies for inter-continental missiles in Ukraine if Kiev and Moscow fail to reach agreement on the weapons' future.

## Hostel bombed

Rome: A bomb exploded outside a home for asylum-seekers in Kolbermoor, Bavaria. This is believed to be the first time that explosives have been used in the present campaign of terror against refugees. No body was hurt.

## Ship boarded

Moscow: A Russian coast-guard vessel fired across the bow of a Greenpeace ship whose crew was planning to conduct radiation tests off the north Russian coast. The ship was boarded and searched by Russian coastguards.

## Hieson wins

Bucharest: President Iliescu of Romania, a former top communist official, has been elected with an almost two-thirds majority in a ballot described as democratic and free. Emil Constantinescu, of the Democratic Convention, got 39.5 per cent. (Reuters)

## Nuclear deal

Washington: Iran has been negotiating secretly to buy nuclear warheads from the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, and a deal may have been struck already, according to a *Washington Post* report that cited senior American officials. (Reuters)

## Resign call

Tokyo: Taku Yamazaki, Japan's construction minister, has called for the resignation of Shin Kanemaru, the ruling Liberal Democratic party's "kingmaker", who controls the party's biggest faction and has admitted accepting illegal political gifts. (Reuters)

## Unita gives warning of war

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN LUANDA

FORMER rebels yesterday pushed up the stakes in Angola's political crisis, threatening "immediate war" if results are published from last month's elections.

Elias Salupeto Pena, an official of Jonas Savimbi's Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), called for the country's first multiparty election to be annulled, repeating the group's claims of vote fraud. "The situation is so grave we cannot imagine the publication of such fraudulent results because this will mean immediate war," he said.

His threat came a day after Unita soldiers sprayed part of central Luanda with machine-gun fire, mortar shells and grenades after a bomb shattered windows in an hotel the group used. Two Unita men were injured in a shooting.

Election officials have delayed publication of the results to allow time to investigate Unita's claims, but they are expected to announce the winner this week. Partial results released last week showed President dos Santos and his MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) party ahead of Unita.

## Amazon produces a monkey puzzle for scientists

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A NEW species of monkey, small enough to slip into a raincoat pocket, has been discovered in the Amazon forest, scientists are claiming. The monkey, which has a face like a koala and sports faint stripes, has been named *Maues marmoset* after its discovery by Marco Schwarz, a Swiss biologist, 800 miles upstream near the Maues river of the Amazon delta in Brazil.

The find, published yesterday in the Brazilian journal *Goeldiana*, brings the number of known monkey species to some 140, of which nine are marmosets.

Robert May, Royal Society research professor at Oxford University and Imperial College, London, said yesterday that the *Maues marmoset* could be the last monkey species to be found. "Monkey species are very well known," he said. "A very good guess is that there are no more."

However, Caroline Harcourt, of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, was sceptical. Several new species of monkey and related primates had been identified recently in remote and inaccessible parts of the globe, she said, citing the discovery eight years ago of the *Suntati guenon* in

central Gabon and also the Golden Bamboo lemur in Madagascar.

This divergence of opinion highlights how, more than 200 years after the publication of *Systema Naturae* by the Swedish naturalist Carolus Linnaeus, mankind's knowledge of the number of plant and animal species remains informed guesswork when compared with knowledge of the atom or human genetic codes.

Scientists may baffle over the exact number of monkey species, but attempts to calculate the total number of living species, including insects and micro-organisms, vary from just a few million up to 100 million.

Professor May puts the figure at five million. Around 1.5 million species have been identified which, even with this conservative figure, leaves up to 3.2 million awaiting discovery.

Most of the species catalogued have been found in accessible terrain and are of the furry, feathered or gossamer-winged variety beloved of Victorian naturalists armed with knapsacks and butterfly nets.

The challenge facing biologists is finding less cuddly and elusive life forms such as



Pocket-sized performer: the recently discovered marmoset has ears like a koala and zebra stripes

fungi, beetles or nematode worms living in small numbers in isolated parts of the globe. Studies by David Hawksworth, of the International Mycological Institute at Kew, indicate that, for instance, around 1.6 million species of fungi may exist, whereas scientists have recorded only 69,000.

"It is not that there are fewer people looking; I think there are more people than

of species-cataloguing, funding had been squeezed partly by a huge growth in rival biological fields, such as molecular biology, and partly by an inability of government and research councils to decide who should pay.

The committee has made a series of recommendations, including an additional £5 million over five years for an area of "humble research" with potentially spectacular results.

Many undiscovered species could harbour new medicines and crops, further knowledge on evolution and play critical roles in the planet's ecosystem at a time of rising concern over pollution.

However, Professor May believes extra funds are not the only answer. He says a redeployment of resources is also urgently needed, particularly given the accelerating rate of habitat destruction which estimates indicate could leave the globe denuded of its rainforests in 50 years.

Surveys of the 30,000 scientists working in the field indicate that too few are carrying out insect and lower life form research. In addition, only 4 per cent of taxonomists are in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, where most of the new species are to be found.

## Church begs Indians to forgive the past

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

INDIAN activists across Latin America and the Caribbean were grieving yesterday while others celebrated the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New World.

The biggest protests were held in Mexico, Bolivia and Ecuador where Indians still make up a large proportion of the population. Many official celebrations were toned down merely to commemorate the day Columbus landed on the island he named San Salvador in the modern Bahamas. Instead of talking of the "discovery of the Americas", official statements have adopted Spain's definition of the event as "a meeting of two worlds".

Catholic bishops in many countries asked their Indian populations to pardon the church for atrocities committed during the colonial era. The Catholic church in Bolivia decided not to take part in Columbus commemorations. The Pope, on a visit to the Dominican Republic, also expressed sorrow for the suffering of the Indians under colonial rule.

Bolivia and Guatemala are the two Latin American countries with the biggest Indian population. More than half Guatemala's 9.5 million in-

habitants are Indians of Mayan descent. The Aymara and Quechua Indians make up more than half Bolivia's population of six million.

At a conference of indigenous leaders from 26 countries in Managua, the Nicaraguan capital, delegates attacked "the voyage of destruction" and the failure of modern-day governments to respect the native cultures. "Columbus didn't discover America. He invaded it," read T-shirts on sale at the conference. A "wanted" poster portrayed a villainous-looking Columbus with the words: "A big thief, murderer, racist, torturer, oppressor of indigenous peoples and instigator of the big lie."

In south Florida's state-run schools, where both Spanish and English are spoken, teachers were encouraged to adopt a balanced approach to Columbus as part of a Hispanic heritage month.

Elsewhere protest was the dominant theme. Five hundred Indian runners completed a 14,000-mile run called a "voyage of discovery" when they converged on the ancient Aztec pyramids of Teotihuacan in Mexico. In Mexico City several thousand Indians demonstrated in front of the Church of Guadalupe.

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## SIDE LINE

## Paint on the burns

The White House celebrates its 200th anniversary today

To Charles Dickens it looked "like an English clubhouse". Harry S. Truman called it a "great white prison". But to most people it is simply known as the White House, and today officially marks the 200th anniversary of the laying of its first cornerstone. The anniversary is being celebrated with a stamp, exhibitions, lectures, films and a three-day symposium which begins today in Washington, DC.

The house was designed by an Irishman, James Hoban, and built by Scottish stonemasons.

In the war of 1812, the



White is right: the famous American landmark.

Executive Mansion, as it was then called, was burnt down by the British and had to be almost completely rebuilt. White lead paint was applied to cover up the remaining smoke damage in 1817, and from that day forth it became known as the White House.

The 132-room house, with its 34 bathrooms, and 11 bedrooms, has provided a backdrop for some of the world's most decisive moments: the dropping of the atomic bomb in the second world war; the standoff between the US and the Soviet Union in 1962; and, more recently, the waging of Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

It is also where the third president of the US, Thomas Jefferson, played his fiddle, cultivated rare plants and taught his pet mockingbird to peck food from his lips.

But the White House is also a working building, the heart of the American presidency. George Bush runs his administration from the Oval Office and several hundred government officials work there.

Modern problems have led to some architectural compromises. The windows in the Oval Office are bullet proof and give the view a purple hue. And rumour has it that portable anti-aircraft missiles are hidden on the roof.

In two months' time a new administration will come into the White House and once again the scramble for the few, coveted offices overlooking the 18-acre estate will begin.

RENÉ RILEY-ADAMS

## Anatole Kaletsky names the Treasury mandarins who promoted the policies that led to Britain's economic mess

RICHARD WILLSON

## The guilty men behind Lamont

While Norman Lamont prepared to defend himself yesterday before the Commons treasury committee, a deluge of leaks flowed out of the Treasury, suggesting that the Chancellor had repeatedly ignored and over-ridden his officials' advice. The timing was probably no coincidence. For any serious enquiry into the causes and consequences of Britain's economic debacle should look far beyond the personal role of one politician and probe the responsibilities of the men who have stood behind successive Chancellors, not only writing their speeches but shaping all their ideas.

Regardless of who takes over from Mr Lamont as Chancellor, if the same people continue to run the Treasury and the Bank of England, similar mistakes will continue to be made. This prediction can be made with assurance for two reasons. Firstly, the style of the errors made by British economic policymakers since the early 1980s has been completely consistent, even though the consequences of these blunders have varied wildly, from extreme depression and unemployment to sudden bursts of inflation. That style has been to control one economic indicator — be it the sterling M3 figure, the public sector borrowing requirement or the exchange rate against the mark — to the exclusion of every other political, economic or industrial consideration.

Secondly, the institutional structures of the Treasury and the Bank of England, and all other government-sponsored economic institutions have been carefully shaped over the years to ensure that ministers are never exposed to anything but the official view.

The credit for this goes largely to the two men who have dominated the Treasury and the Bank of England for more than a decade: Sir Terence Burns, the permanent secretary of the Treasury; and Edward George, now deputy governor of the bank.

Both men of modest background, they swept through what used to be socially hidebound institutions and quickly won the attention of Margaret Thatcher, Nigel Lawson and John Major. They offered something far more attractive than unpretentious accents, down to earth approaches and a much-publicised love of sport.

At the bank, Eddie George was the man who supposedly "understood the markets". Mr George became a key figure to a government which consistently made the financial markets the judge and jury of its economic performance — first by targeting the money supply and exposing itself to the goodwill or otherwise of gilt-edged investors; then by lashing itself to an exchange-rate target in the exchange-rate mechanism. At the monthly meetings on monetary strategy held in the Chancellor's office, proposals for a cut in interest rates could be brought to a halt by a single sentence about market reaction from Mr George. Since the devaluation his view has become tougher than ever. He is now against rejoining the ERM, but not because he wants to ease monetary policy. On the contrary, he would like to push the pound back up to DM2.95.

Mr George has had a dominant influence on economic policy in the two years since ERM entry and must bear a large part of the responsibility for the present recession. But before that Mr George was, to his credit, a dissenter. His was one of the lone voices raised within the Thatcher government in the mid-1980s against the excesses of the Lawson boom. Sir Terry can claim no such allil.

Since he joined the Treasury in 1980, as chief economic adviser, he has been at the centre of every economic decision and every economic mistake. He introduced Mr Lawson to the idea of shadowing the mark, and thereby ignoring the inflation that was building up in the late 1980s. Before that, he was behind the monetary targets of the early 1980s and the theory that a large part of manufacturing industry had to be wiped out to "make room" for the extra output of North Sea oil.

All Sir Terry's ideas had one thing in common: a conviction that one "over-riding" objective should dominate government policy, even if the precise nature of this objective changed. One of the few avowed monetarists in the British academic world prior to 1980, Sir Terry brought to the Treasury a crusading zeal against the traditional Keynesian policymaking, with its ever-shifting priorities and its balancing of unemployment and growth against the balance of payments and inflation. The government had one clear duty — to stop inflation. And the way of doing that was equally clear — to keep the money supply under control. Every other economic objective for which the government used to be considered responsible — to stimulate economic growth, manage the balance of payments or limit unemployment — was at best a waste of time and at worst counter-productive.

Sir Terry's specific mission from 1980 onwards was to instil monetarism into the Treasury's traditionally Keynesian economic modeling and policy thinking. He did this with remarkable success. Although the Treasury's forecasts became even less reliable in the 1980s than they had been in previous decades, the language in which Treasury officials and Chancellors spoke was rapidly transformed.

The one-dimensional view of the government's economic responsibilities has been the hallmark of every Chancellor's utterance since Sir Terry took over at the Treasury — first as chief economic adviser and then as permanent secretary early last year. The Treasury's means have varied greatly over the years — from sterling M3 targets to medium-term financial strategies and finally ERM membership. But the single-minded philosophy has always been the same and remains unchanged to this day, even after the devaluation.

As Mr Lamont made clear again yesterday to the treasury committee: "Monetary policy has one central objective — to control inflation. Growth and economic recovery are not appropriate objectives for interest rate policy." As long as Sir Terry remains in charge at the Treasury, neither the government's economic philosophy, nor its record of achievements is likely to change.



## Nobel foolishness and fallen gurus

Today the 32nd winner of the Nobel prize in economics will be announced. The name is always unpredictable, and frequently extremely interesting. But today's election comes at a significant time for the prize.

The past few days have seen co-events, one on each side of the Atlantic, which peg neatly to the distinguished list of laureates. The first event was the British government's "new" economic policy conference by Messrs Lamont and Major. The second was a manifesto, signed by 600 American economists, including nine Nobel winners, supporting candidate Clinton. This is rare political daring for American academics.

The laureates represent no less than half the formidable total of 18 American residents (some joint winners) who have ever won the economics prize. The 600 represent an intellectual constituency which has been out of Washington and out of influence for more than a decade since the election of Ronald Reagan. I doubt whether the government's "new" policy commands much respect among British economists, either.

Those who doubt whether economics Nobel prize winners can be

influential, need think only of two gentlemen who won their prizes in the 1970s, Friedrich von Hayek and Milton Friedman. In the mid-1970s, fuelled by the discontent of the up-market classes and ignited by the oil-price rises of 1973 and 1979, there was a massive reversal of policy fashions in favour

of what is generally known as monetarism, the effects of which are with us still today. Reagan and Thatcher were the high priests; Hayek and Friedman its prophets. Hayek received a Nobel prize at the age of 75 in 1974, Friedman at the age of 65 two years later.

They were quite unlike other economists, including other Nobel economists, because they were entirely single-minded. Most, even when they hold an opinion, aspire to scientific diffidence. They know they could be wrong (a trait which makes the pro-Clinton manifesto of the nine Americans especially significant). By contrast, so persuasive was Hayek (he had two basic

messages, "Democratic Socialism destroys democracy", and "Markets are marvellous") that it is said his works were kept under Mrs T's pillow. She was, of course, a politician who especially despised diffidence.

But the greater culprit was Friedman, an extremely intelligent

person with a high reputation in technical economics. He based his new prophetic role on a piece of economic theory, called the Quantity Theory of Money, which in the opinion of myself and other economists, simply doesn't add up, and is, indeed, largely discredited by

events. Friedman advocated that if a government confined itself to a single means, the growth-rate of the money supply, there was no need for any other action. Inflation would be low and stable. Unemployment would automatically fall. Economic growth would naturally happen at a desirable rate.

As the King of Sweden handed Friedman his accolade for these dotty ideas, there were riots outside

the chamber. These were mainly due to the especially spectacular service Friedman was said to be giving to the then government of Chile. But in their citation the electors implicitly defended themselves on the grounds that whatever else one could say, as an economist, Friedman was uniquely influential.

Should the Nobel electors have given Friedman a prize just because he was influential (after the award a group of American laureates petitioned to have the prize abolished)? Are the nine laureates who have signed up for Clinton about to turn the tables?

The truth is that the Nobel electors believe they are concerned with the quality of science. But, given the nature of economics, they also like their scientists to be influential. Some economists believe that in the middle 1970s they overstepped the line between politics and science and also, perhaps, that they showed some political bias.

Of much greater concern to Europeans must be the increasing and more recently overwhelming preponderance of American winners, in all the sciences. (In economics alone 43 per cent of the winners were born in America and

59 per cent did their main prize work in that country. Of the last 15 winners, 73 per cent did their main prize work in America and most were born there.) Why is this? The first part of the answer is that the Americans win because they are the best. They have a large and rich economy, but so, as a whole, has Europe. The president of the Swedish Academy has pointed out that they also have the benefit of the organisation of American universities, which receive large amounts of public money for research, and spent it effectively. Appointments and promotion in these universities are made genuinely on merit, a merit judged exclusively by published research. The American vogue for "publish or perish" has been an enormous benefit to the human race.

Money and motivation, motivation and money. The British system has the motivation, but does not have the money. On the Continent they sometimes have more money, but they have far too much security of tenure, and far too many other distractions. Think on, MacDuff.

ROBIN MARRIS

• The author is emeritus professor of economics at Birkbeck College, University of London.

## Will the Nobel economics prize winner be American yet again?

## Between the covers of the Booker Prize

Ben Okri reflects on a year as the Miss World of Bookdom

Last week's Nobel laureate for literature, Derek Walcott, greeted his award with the disarming declaration: "I'm shocked, I'm happy, and I'm rich." Ben Okri's £20,000 1991 Booker prize was hardly in the Nobel league (Walcott trousered a crisp £700,000, so proving, given the provenance of the respective awards, that guns as ever have it a good way over butter), but "it was useful".

Literary prizes have always existed, but with the exception of the Nobel, it has taken the food distributors Booker McConnell to offer a succession of mere novelists the sort of exposure more usually associated with the winners of beauty contests.

The reason for this is television, which dragged what had been a somewhat rarefied event into the full glare of 1980s merchandising. Say it not in the Groucho, but the Booker razzmatazz proves that, in lit crit as elsewhere, it is the surface that counts. Come the awards night, it's all glitz and glamour: *Le tour literary London en fête*, the lights, the cameras, the lip gloss... Well, maybe not the lip gloss, nor indeed the swimsuits, and on the whole, the half dozen hopefuls don't have to vouchsafe their fascination with

animal rights, but the whole parade does smack somewhat of Miss World.

Certainly the winner, as Okri recalls, enters a state of suspended normality. "I didn't know I'd won when I arrived at the dinner. They do arrange it so that you know, but in my case I didn't. There was a slight cock-up. They're supposed to give you a copy of your book with the announcement, but they gave me Timothy Mo's book, and gave my book to Timothy Mo. It was very strange, but it worked out beautifully, because if I'd known, I'd have made a complete fool of myself. In the event, it was just a mild foot."

The winner does not have cry, nor to kiss the runners-up, the consoler, or anyone else. But there remains the task of toning to the podium, there to deliver a speech. "You have to say something. You're as gracious as you feel, and you're as honest as your state of mind is at that moment. I felt that I had been kicked into a dream. I'd stepped into unreality, and in some ways, I still haven't quite stepped out. "The Okri Law of Recent Celebrity is that the unreality tends to linger. Everyone lives with the slight feeling that perhaps one day life might be good enough to afford them a



Unreality lingers: tonight Ben Okri, the 1991 winner, will hand over his crown

little fairy tale. So when that fairy tale does happen, it intrudes itself into your reality. For good or ill, it's always going to be there. For some people it's bad because it makes them a bit pompous or a bit stupid, for others, it makes them humbler and more generous, and more humane and more warm. I hope I fall into the latter group. If something good happens to you, it should make you a better person."

And the money helps. "I had a few awkward debts which I was able to pay off.

Some you spread and some you use to build a sensible foundation with which to carry on writing. The way I see it is that this prize is not meant to be the end of a journey, but the beginning. So you have to make sure that the car you're travelling in is in good order."

Celebrity is as much conferred as taken. "Writers are very solitary people, but at the same time, they're very resilient. They have to be. Aristotle put it perfectly: The person who can live with solitude is either a

god or a beast. The writer has to be a bit of both. And winning the Booker is another kind of solitude. There's a sort of loneliness there. And an incredible vulnerability."

Writers are notoriously fearful, and winning a big prize certainly helps. In the short run, anyway. "The first thing that happens is the uncertainty is taken away from you. The second thing is that your playfulness gets taken away, your wings are clipped, you get heavy, you get serious, you just can't flap your wings and see where they'll take you. Then

you get an attack of nerves. No one avoids that sort of attack."

The writer may not start believing the publishers' hype, but others do. "It increases the temperature of your own expectations, because of other people's expectations of you. So a feeling of being more solemn and more serious takes you over. And the company you now have to keep. Previous winners are people like V.S. Naipaul and William Golding. Whether you like it or not, you get put into that league."

And for more fleshly, less cerebral delights? The secret dreams of nascent winners? Those blissful pitfalls of fame. Okri, as book watchers will attest, is no recluse. "You do get invited to more parties, but I still only go the ones I want to. The ones where I feel more at home. As for the idea of girls rushing up to you, not necessarily: girls aren't really interested in bookish types. And thank goodness for that. One doesn't want that: one would rather have a more interesting relationship with people."

Come tonight, Okri's reign will be over, his metaphorical crown handed on, the plaudits aimed elsewhere. He has no tips, but has placed a discreet wager. Last year's runner-up Timothy Mo did likewise. He won, it is rumoured, a good deal more than the man himself.

JONATHAN GREEN

Undergraduate MEng in Environmental & Earth Resources Engineering

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## BOTTOM LINE

Bless you!  
It's flu timeThe low-down  
on this  
year's virus

Barring a freak event, a flu epidemic is unlikely this winter. The viruses now active in the southern hemisphere, which are normally the source of the winter flu epidemics in Europe, are familiar strains to which the British population is likely to have wide immunity.

Because the flu virus mutates easily, it has the capacity to cause epidemics every year. As long as this "genetic drift" is only slight, those who succumbed last year will still have extensive immunity this year. But as the years pass and the drift progresses, immunity falls and the risk of catching the illness rises.

Three times this century the sea-urchin-like virus has undergone a dramatic change, giving it a fresh capacity to attack and reproduce itself in human cells. On each occasion — in 1918, 1957 and 1968 — the resulting epidemic has gone round the world. Millions have died.

Nobody can predict when the next big change to the virus will occur. Only three main varieties infect humans, but another ten are known to infect birds, pigs and horses. Occasionally the virus can be transmitted from man to ani-



mal and vice versa, and it is thought that when two strains of the virus mix in this way a major mutation is possible.

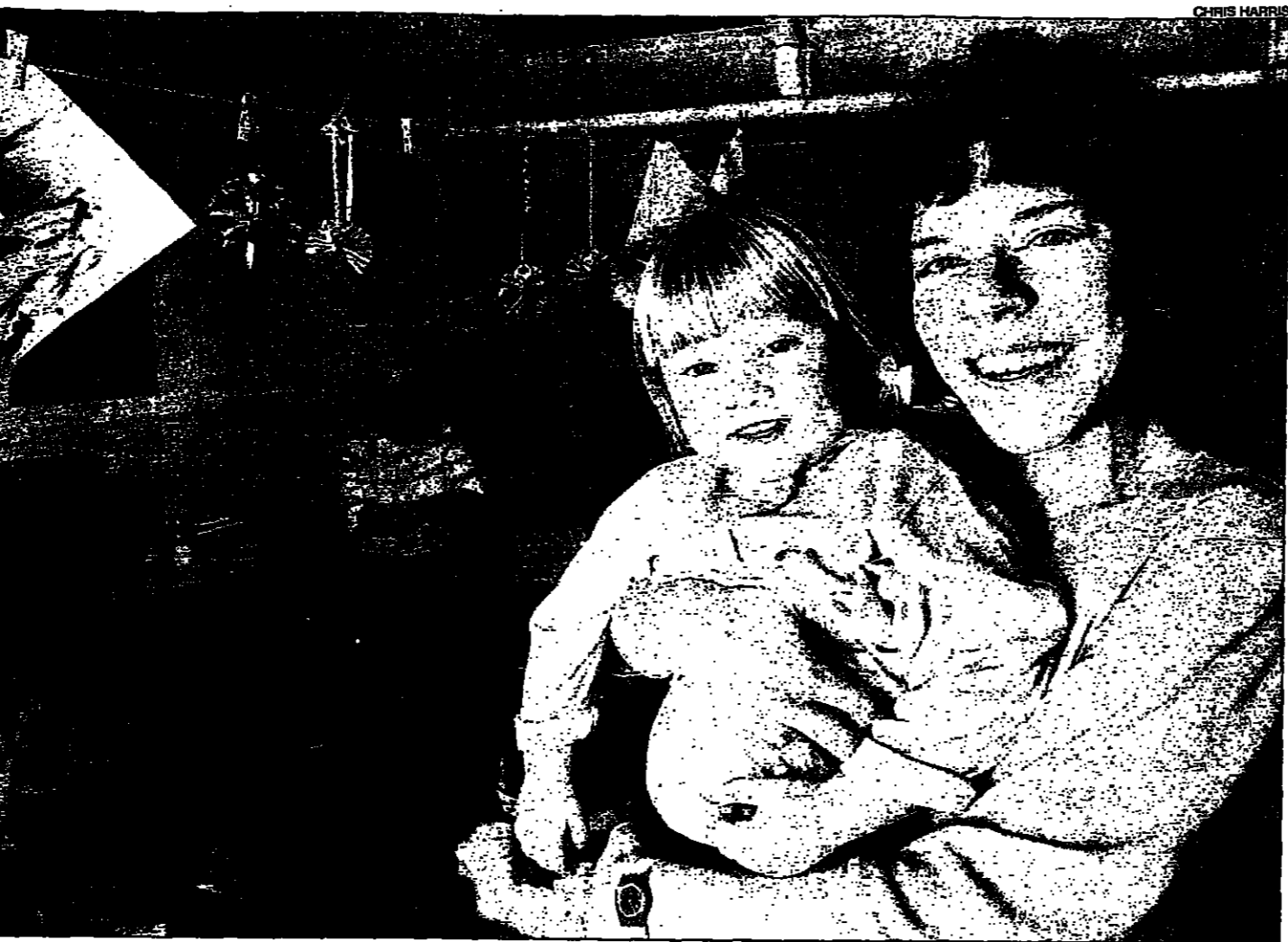
Vaccination against flu is only 70 per cent effective, even when matched precisely against the strain of virus. This is a much lower success rate than for vaccines against other diseases. Vaccination is not necessary for healthy people. It is recommended for anyone with lung conditions, such as asthma or bronchitis, heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes and those on immuno-suppressive drugs.

Flu involves aches and pains, usually accompanied by fever, that come on suddenly and bring an undeniable urge to lie down. A cold brings on a runny nose, sneezing, a frontal headache but rarely any fever. In children the distinction is more difficult as they are more likely to get a fever with a cold.

To fight flu, rest in bed, have plenty to drink to replace fluid lost through sweating, and take paracetamol or aspirin to reduce fever and relieve aches and pains. A moderate amount of alcohol, possibly in a hot toddy, can help sleep. Gargling with salt water can relieve a sore throat. Congestion can be tackled by inhaling vapour from an infusion of menthol or herbs in hot water.

JEREMY LAURANCE

Children of lone parents are challenging society's misconceptions, Jane Bidder reports



Young minds: Cheryl Keir with children (from all kinds of families) at the University of East London play group

Picture, if you will, the traditional view of the single-parent family. A harassed mother with limp hair, cooking fish fingers for toddlers in a high-rise flat. Low-achieving, pale-faced and under-weight children who stand a higher chance, as teenagers, of ending up in police custody than offspring of dual parentage. This is undoubtedly the vision painted over the years by psychologists, social workers, teachers and the media.

Well, we could be wrong. A new report, *The ecology of families after parental marital separation*, says there is actually no emotional, physical or educational difference, in the immediate period after separation, between children under the age of two who have one parent and those who have two.

The paper's author — Cheryl Keir, a 33-year-old (childless) lecturer at the University of East London who wrote her dissertation as part of her doctorate — believes that her study is the first to record the initial emotional and physical details of families with very young children so soon after separation. She hopes to be given a grant that will enable her to follow the children's progress and assess the long term effects. The parents in the study had been married for an average of four years.

Previous studies have looked at more general statistical trends — How many times have you moved house? What do the children weigh? — and have often been conducted months or years after the break-up," Ms Keir says.

The report also departs from previous single-parent studies which have concentrated on the lower end of the social scale. Ms Keir's case histories range from company directors' families to those of dustmen. At the top end of the scale was a single mother in a house with its own tennis court, at the bottom was a mother in a council B&B. All the single parents were women. Fathers in sole charge of under-tens are still a rarity.

Ms Keir, an American, took four years to track down (via health visitors and mother and toddler groups) 76 willing families. Half were separated, divorced or widowed. The other half, the control group, were still married. The researchers made five three-hour visits to each family. The results so excited Ms Keir's supervisor — Charlie Lewis, a 37-year-old lecturer in developmental psychology at Lancaster University — that the two have applied for an American grant (English grants being tight) to continue studying the children. The mothers are right behind them. Ms Keir says: "Many single

Healthy,  
happy and  
secure

parents are annoyed that society expects their children to have developmental problems because there's no father at home. One mother was upset by a health visitor who suggested that her son's sleeping problems were because his parents had separated. Yet the health visitor had been told the child hadn't slept properly before the split. Another mother was dreading the teenage years in case her children got into trouble and others assumed her divorce was responsible. It's too easy for professionals to blame single parenthood and parents want this record put straight."

The results of the study, suggesting that the overall development quotient (a sort of junior IQ) was 108 for single-parent children compared with 102 for two-parent children, surprised both pupil and tutor. They had expected the work to bear out the results of previous psychological studies such as the recent *Families Without Fatherhood* by Norman Dennis and George Erdos. This claims "we could find no study which did not show clearly that, over a whole range of outcomes, children in lone parent families suffered disabilities as compared with the average child in the stable two-parent family."

Dr Lewis insists that Ms Keir's report "has great implications for society. Traditionally, people have always assumed single-parent children were disadvantaged. And even though the psychologists Herzog and Sudia wrote a paper in 1973 declaring we shouldn't assume that there is a link, many authorities [medical, teachers etc] think the contrary."

To prove them wrong, the study took five "measures" with which to assess the children's emotional and physical development. Measure one and two involved taking the mother out of the room briefly and observing the child's reaction on her return. "Previously psychologists have argued that disturbed children will cling to the mother

and fail to settle again," Dr Lewis explains. "A balanced child is meant to quickly resume playing with his toys. We also looked at whether a child would calm down if an older sibling came into the room (instead of the mother). Again, psychologists have argued that a stressed child will often turn to a brother or sister as a mother substitute. But in each case, there were no obvious differences between the separated and the married groups. Certainly, some from each refused to settle but there were no more from one than the other."

Measures three and four gauged a child's physical and emotional development such as walking, co-ordination and language skills while measure five was a questionnaire for mothers covering aspects such as how they reacted under stress, whether they felt depressed or guilty, practical circumstances (were they in debt, had they had to move house), how well they got on with their former partners, and their assessment of their children's characters.

Dr Lewis says: "In all these areas, there was no marked difference between either group." So how does he account for the difference between this study and others of older children? "Younger ones aren't so aware of their environment. They haven't got peer pressure from friends who tease them about not having two parents. It's possible that single mothers might have more time to spend on their children's development because their children are all they have."

The National Council for One Parent Families, still cringing over the Dennis/Erdos report, welcomes these new findings. "Children are only likely to suffer emotionally if they are in an unstable situation," Gill Hargraves, the council's spokeswoman, says. "But a stable one-parent environment is better

than married parents in conflict."

There are other variants which determine how well a single-parent's offspring fare. Finance and housing are often ignored, Dr Lewis says. Is it any wonder that some single families suffer if — as the National Council for One Parent Families suggests — 50 per cent live on less than £100 a week? "On the other hand, low incomes don't have to destroy family life," Dr Lewis says. "Although many of our single mothers were able to remain in the marital home, they were all on a budget. Yet many felt more in control of their finances because there wasn't a partner to gamble or drink the money away."

The quality of contact with the absent partner is also crucial. A recent government survey suggested that fewer than 50 per cent of separated/divorced fathers failed to see their children. Ms Keir's study indicated that where there was no contact at all, there didn't seem to be any obvious behavioural problems. But where there was contact, the reactions differed. "Some mothers reported that toddlers cried when their fathers left after access meetings while others claimed they carried on playing. There was no overall pattern. What is more interesting is that some married families admitted that their children were upset by marital quarrels. Indeed many separated mothers said they had parted because their parents had always rowed and that had distressed them as children."

The value of a committed father, whether resident or not, as opposed to any old resident dad, is endorsed in Ms Keir's report. "The fathers who bothered to do things with the family created a happier situation."

Widowhood — as opposed to separation — presents a different set of parental problems. "Death is more final than divorce when a father can still be around for access visits," Ms Keir says. "And there is a danger that the remaining parent can over-coddle a child."

Although the report, which Ms Keir hopes to publish next year, shows that children of single-parents are not more stressed, it reveals that their mothers are compared to those in the married group. "But nearly all used their last ounce of strength to hide this and create a normal life for their children," Dr Lewis says. "Separated mothers tended to go out more in the evening than the married group. This gave them strength to maintain tranquility at home. Some were actually less stressed because there wasn't anyone around to upset them. What one should not presume is that a stressed mother equals a stressed child."

Patients need to ask plenty of questions, and to give themselves time to make up their minds."

ANN KENT

Coming clean  
in couplednessDavina Lloyd considers the power of a  
secret in making or breaking a marriage

I say, I say: Why is marriage like a bath? asks the music hall riddle. Answer: Once you're in, it's not so hot. Perhaps so. Certainly many people who've tested the waters experience the changes in temperature that inevitably take place over the years and cause them to wonder why they took the plunge in the first place. Statistics on social trends show that an ever increasing number are pulling the plug.

To my mind, the mystery is not why so many couples throw in the towel, but why and how so many stay in after the rapture of the first steamy immersion. One could suggest other parallels. Certain assumptions are made publicly, but the mechanics are essentially private. It is assumed that if you have a bathroom, you will probably take regular baths; if you are married, your partnership will encompass various practices within a range of agreed norms: trust, companionship, mutual support, sex probably, child rearing possibly.

But in reality, the variety in styles of coupledness exceeds even the extensive selection of baths. We have become accustomed to a choice ranging from bog-standard avocado acrylic to sunken, designer-tiled, double-ended with in-set Jacuzzi — yet we express surprise when we learn of alternative models.

Revelations that a cabinet minister has been involved in an extramarital affair, or a long-married actor has died of an AIDS-related condition after a "double-life" as a bisexual, evoke general amazement. First, "How could he?" (because it is usually the "he" in the partnership), followed by, "How could she?" (because the "she" in question has known of and evidently condoned the situation).

Such exposures of the private relationships of public persons blow the doors off everyone's bathroom and provoke us to examine our own partnerships. Yet, according to the experts, all couples have secrets. "Within any marriage a number of things are withheld," says Tricia Barnes, a psychotherapist and the director of a sexual and marital therapy clinic. "Some are related to information, some to behaviour."

"A secret is powerful when one partner holds it over the other, allegedly 'for their own good', believing it would hurt the other partner to know for certain about the gambling, drinking, drug abuse or whatever. Yet once a secret is locked into a marriage it is difficult to release; it absorbs enormous amounts of energy — in concealment on the one side and in trying to discover, or not discover, on the other."

Trust is highly valued within a permanent partnership, so disclosure of the previously unacknowledged behaviour may be correspondingly disruptive. Discovery

strips off the pretence, shatters the illusion, unmasks the myth. Strongest among secrets are the sexual ones. When these are uncovered the other partner feels challenged and betrayed.

"The obvious revelation within a marriage is the affair. When the man — it could as well be the woman — owns up or is found to be involved with someone outside the partnership. The eternal triangle. There is deep hurt and anger," says Ms Barnes. The rage and revenge depend on how the individual views the act. Is it more or less hurtful if the "other person" is another woman or another man? Or no one at all?

There can be as much a sense of betrayal when the discovery does not involve anyone outside. For instance, if the uncovered secret is private masturbation, the other partner says, "I'm here, so why do you need to do this?" Similarly when the secret is personal but prolonged, as in an example cited by Ms Barnes of the faked orgasm. The longer the pretence has contin-

ued, the harder it is to unlock the secret.

When marriage, billed as a bicycle made for two, is exposed as a wholly different sort of vehicle, both riders may lose their balance. Each is in a state of bereavement, grieving for the loss of the way things were or the way they thought things were.

Peeping through bathroom keyholes, as we are, and looking from the outside, we may still wonder how couples continue to operate. Why did they stay together? How well the "wronged" partner recovers from this depends on how strongly he or she feels about the offence. And more importantly how they feel about themselves — their personal confidence and gender identity.

Some cannot countenance the change, and opt to end the relationship. Some seek to extract promises: "Never see her/him again." Others deal.

"Most people want to continue the relationship," says Ms Barnes. So there is collusion, a spoken or unspoken abatement. When the unveiling comes, they weigh up what there is to be lost — security, companionship, a shared history. Notions of complicity, compromise and collaboration are replaced by acceptance, accommodation and mutual arrangement.

The couple consider the consequences of parting, public embarrassment, widening ripples of disrupted lives, and decide to stay together. The pair hold the secret together against the world and decide that it is none of the world's business. Perhaps that's how it is best done. You agree what must be accepted as water under the soap dish, decide between you who will sit up at the tap end, and keep your bathroom door firmly bolted.

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## Hormone replacement: not so simple as it seems

What menopausal women need to know, and doctors should  
tell them, about hormone replacement therapy

Mary Brown is 48 and her ovaries are beginning to fail. As she talks to customers in the showroom where she works, she is horrified to find herself blushing frequently and without warning. Her problem is caused by deficiency of the hormone oestrogen, regarded by some doctors as a pathological condition requiring treatment and by others as a natural sign of ageing.

Mrs Brown (a fictional character) visits her GP, who prescribes hormone replacement therapy (HRT) — a combination of oestrogen, to replace the hormone which her ovaries were no longer producing, and progestogen. As a result her hot flushes disappear, along with the night sweats, bad temper and discomfort during lovemaking.

Every few months a survey is published suggesting that real women are not so lucky. Family doctors are accused of not keeping up with HRT developments: women are said to be ignorant about it. The latest of these was published this week by the

Amarant Trust, founded by Teresa Gorman, Conservative MP for Billericay and a staunch supporter of HRT. It accused family doctors of giving menopausal women a rushed, inadequate service, and of being reluctant to persevere with the treatment if side-effects appear.

But the ambivalent attitudes of doctors can be explained by the uncertainties which still surround HRT, says Ann McPherson, an Oxford GP. She says women need to understand that hormone replacement therapy is strongly promoted by pharmaceutical companies on the basis that it protects women against osteoporosis, the bone-thinning disease, and also against heart disease. Its efficacy in abolishing the inconvenient symptoms described by Mrs Brown tend to take third place.

Dr McPherson says she would reassure Mrs Brown that HRT would almost certainly relieve her symptoms, provided she took it for



HRT fan: Teresa Gorman

at least three months. "I would also like to tell her that the treatment will definitely prevent her from getting osteoporosis — but I can't because I don't know she is at risk from that disease. I would like to say there will be no serious side-effects but I cannot say so categorically because we know there is a slight increase in breast cancer in women who take it for more than

ten years. I do not take the view that everyone should take HRT. We don't really know who should use it, or for how long."

Nevertheless Dr McPherson often prescribes HRT to women with symptoms such as Mrs Brown's and to women who do not have symptoms but feel they would benefit from long-term protection to their hearts and bones. A blood test can be used to check whether the woman's ovaries are beginning to fail.

Dr McPherson says: "I am happy to prescribe HRT to patients who want it, but not all women want to use it and I don't think they should be made to feel on medical grounds that they have to. Most women who use HRT have to put up with the return of their periods, and in some cases premenstrual symptoms as well. Decisions about using it or not using it involve balancing the risks and benefits."

In practice, Dr McPherson

# The Times Good University Guide

You know what you want to read — but which institution should you choose? In the final part of our guide, John O'Leary explains how the universities were graded, subject by subject

**R**anking universities by subjects is both more useful to prospective students and more problematic than establishing their overall standing.

There can be pockets of excellence in the most mediocre institutions, and blackspots in the best. Aggregate scores may determine positions in a pecking order, but reputations will vary between subject groupings.

Universities of all types are being encouraged to concentrate on their strengths, making it even more likely that apparently implausible candidates will appear at the head of narrower rankings.

Published statistics make such gems harder to unearth, however. Although the funding councils' ratings for teaching and research are based on subject areas, many of the other key indicators are not broken down in this way.

The rankings for seven main subject areas published here do not take account of research strengths, both because the last assessments in the traditional universities date back more than three years and because direct comparisons are not available for the new universities.

The tables will need to be updated when the results of the latest research exercise are published next February. This will, for the first time, encompass both new and old universities.

This first attempt at subject rankings is based on entry grades, staffing levels and departmental budgets. As such, it reflects reputation and demand for places, as well as the resources available in the main subject areas.

However, because fewer variables have been used, scores bunch more closely together and there can be less confidence that universities of

similar strength can be separated accurately. As a result, in order to minimise the risk of misrepresentation, more universities have been bracketed together than in the other tables.

In the most extreme example, the sciences, four universities share the top position, Manchester succeeding in matching Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial College, London. Four universities also share ninth place, indicating the keen competition in the area.

Had the table been extended to the top 15 places, it would have included Nottingham Trent University, demonstrating the strength of some of the former polytechnics when research is discounted. The University of Wales College of Cardiff would also have featured.

**Universities are being encouraged to concentrate on their strengths**

Business and management was another area which was tight at the top. Warwick, Lancaster and Bradford tying. As a measure of undergraduate

courses, the guide did not include the best-known business schools, which concentrate on postgraduate qualifications. Business subjects have been the new universities' boom area for several years, and this is reflected in the appearance of both Sheffield Hallam and Manchester Metropolitan universities in the top ten. Leeds Metropolitan, Greenwich, Plymouth, Hertfordshire and Kingston also come close to a place in the elite group, although all are behind the University of Ulster.

Other subject areas are more clear cut, although languages also produces a dead heat between Oxford and Cambridge. The older universities dominate the ratings for languages. Reading and Exeter being the only institutions to break the stranglehold of the ancients and the civics.



Decisions, decisions: with 96 universities to choose from, sixth-form pupils confront a cornucopia of possibilities

As in all the subject rankings, size appears to confer distinct advantages. Universities are omitted if they have fewer than 500 students in languages or humanities, 750 in social sciences, and 1,000 in medicine, science and engineering. But the big battalions tend to dominate even those which narrowly cross this threshold.

Oxford also takes first place in the humanities, the grouping which includes history, philosophy, theology and archaeology. Cambridge and Edinburgh complete the top three in both languages and humanities, with St Andrews, Manchester and Glasgow ex-

changing places among the top six. Only Leeds, as one of those on fourth place for languages, manages to break in.

Imperial College tops the engineering ranking, even without taking account of its recent switch to four-year degrees in the area. Cambridge, where there is a more theoretical approach, beats UMIST to second place. The new universities again hover outside the top ten, despite their lower funding levels. Leeds Metropolitan, Middlesex and Plymouth all appear in the net ten places.

Specialisation also pays off for the London School of

Economics in the social science ranking, where Essex shows with its third place that smaller universities can overcome any handicaps of size.

Although Oxford appears in second place, Cambridge is relegated to a cluster of universities behind Manchester and Birmingham.

Perhaps the biggest surprise is the position of University College London, at the head of the ranking for medicine. The college set its sights on producing Britain's top medical school when the Middlesex and University College hospitals merged, and the ranking suggests that it succeeded. The faculties of life and clinical

sciences, which make up the school, have expanded recently and gained in strength as a result.

Traditionally strong schools at Edinburgh, Newcastle, Glasgow and Liverpool appear ahead of Oxford and Cambridge in the table. Although many of the new universities are strong in subjects in the health field, none has a medical school.

Some of the traditional universities are consistently strong performers in the subject rankings without appearing in any of the top tens. Sheffield is the prime example, making the top 15 in five of the seven rankings.

1. Warwick
2. Lancaster
3. Bradford
4. Cardiff
5. Bath
6. UMIST
7. City University
8. Sheffield Hallam
9. Manchester Met
10. Aston
11. Strathclyde

1. Imperial
2. Cambridge
3. UMIST
4. Oxford
5. Birmingham
6. Loughborough
7. Strathclyde
8. Manchester
9. UCL
10. Leeds
11. Southampton

1. Oxford
2. Cambridge
3. Edinburgh
4. St Andrews
5. Manchester
6. Glasgow
7. UCL
8. Warwick
9. Bristol
10. Nottingham
11. Birmingham

1. Oxford
2. Cambridge
3. Edinburgh
4. Leeds
5. Manchester
6. Glasgow
7. St Andrews
8. Bristol
9. Reading
10. Durham
11. Birmingham
12. Exeter

1. UCL
2. Edinburgh
3. Newcastle
4. Glasgow
5. Liverpool
6. Oxford
7. Birmingham
8. Cambridge
9. Manchester
10. Bristol
11. King's

1. Cambridge
2. Manchester
3. Oxford
4. Imperial
5. Glasgow
6. Birmingham
7. Leeds
8. Bristol
9. UCL
10. Nottingham
11. Edinburgh
12. Liverpool

1. LSE
2. Oxford
3. Essex
4. Manchester
5. Birmingham
6. Cambridge
7. Bristol
8. Lancaster
9. York
10. Edinburgh
11. Glasgow

## Research in the melting pot

Private contracts are vital to the modern university's research profile

**R**esearch is the most highly politicised area of higher education. The new universities feel unfairly excluded from the main action, while many of their older rivals fear they might lose their privileged position.

Even established universities that are in no apparent danger of losing their research role worry that a new funding regime may penalise them. By opening up more of the research budget to open competition, the government may destabilise the many departments where teaching and research are indivisible.

The acknowledged link between these two activities makes a university's research base highly relevant to the undergraduate. The top ten universities have been compiled by combining ratings for research income from research councils and private sources with positions in the last funding council rankings and their effect on current budgets.

The result has been to knock Cambridge off the top spot it enjoyed in the 1989 research rankings. The prodigious success of London's Imperial and University colleges in winning private contracts more than compensated for the slight lead enjoyed by Cambridge and Oxford in research council funding. The aggregate figure for London was omitted from this table.

Imperial has been Oxford's closest rival in science research for many years. Almost all of its departments were considered internationally outstanding when the last research assessments were



Top class: Sarah Houlton, a researcher at Imperial

1. Imperial
2. University College, London
3. Cambridge
4. Oxford
5. UMIST
6. King's College
7. Warwick
8. Glasgow
9. LSE
10. Edinburgh

conducted, and several areas have since been strengthened.

The emphasis on research income also gives the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology a place in the top five. Only Cambridge can match its success with the research councils, and only Imperial, UCL and Surrey approach its record for attracting private contracts.

Technological universities inevitably gain some advantage from the use of research income as the main indicator in this table. Although the London School of Economics wins a place in the top ten, the much larger sums involved in scientific research are bound to work against specialists in the arts and social sciences. Essex, for example, was nowhere near the top ten, despite achieving eighth place in the research ratings in our main table yesterday.

The former polytechnics, which have not enjoyed the traditional universities' automatic funding for research, are even less able to compete with those at the top of the table. Some have built up healthy consultancy businesses but the sums involved are not comparable with the older universities.

The results of a new national research assessment will be published in February, and the more selective allocation of research council funds will add to the volatility.

J. O'LEARY

### NOTTINGHAM TRENT

Burton Street, Nottingham NG1 4BU (0602 418418) Formerly Nottingham (originally Trent) Polytechnic Full-time students: 4,644 (f), 6,334 (m)

7,260 arts, 3,718 sciences The new name is expected to be approved by the Privy Council today, bringing to an end a long wrangle with Nottingham University. The change will not affect the institution's commitment to part-time, professional and continuing education.

Nottingham was always among the most popular polytechnics. The two sites, five miles apart, include almost 1,000 residential places. The new university is hoping to break into the research market by focusing on the interface between subjects such as business and engineering. It won more quality awards for teaching than any other polytechnic last year, with science, environmental subjects, business and social sciences doing particularly well.

### OXFORD

University offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD (0865 270000) Established 1096 Full-time students: 5,578 (f), 8,876 (m)

5,762 arts, 4,361 sciences Beaten to poll position by Cambridge in the Times table, Oxford still has arts facilities that are the envy of universities throughout the world. The new Magdalen College Science Park epitomises a drive to enhance Oxford's reputation in the sciences. The 28 undergraduate colleges continue to teach students in small tutorial groups, with lectures an optional extra which some find only marginally useful. Traditional honours schools such as philosophy, politics and economics, classics and history retain their prestige, while newer courses such as engineering, economics and management are gaining in popularity. There are signs

that future growth will focus on postgraduates, but Oxford remains a lively place to spend three or four years reading a first degree. Following Somerville's contentious decision to admit men, St Hilda's may soon be the last bastion of single-sex education in Oxford.

### OXFORD BROOKES

Gypsy Hill, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP (0865 741111)

Presently Oxford Polytechnic Full-time students: 4,153 (f), 3,458 (m)

4,073 arts, 3,538 sciences The new name, agreed after months of discussion, is still to be approved by the Privy Council. It celebrates the achievements of John Brookes, who was the principal of the college which spawned the polytechnic. With one site fully developed

won a national award, and planning, architecture and estate management have been praised by HM Inspectorate. First-years are given priority in the allocation of more than 1,500 residential places, but only half get a hall place. Private sector rents are high.

### PAISLEY

High Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire PA1 2BE (041-848 3000)

Formerly Paisley College Full-time students: 1,307 (f), 2,581 (m)

1,472 arts, 2,416 sciences The student population has grown substantially, but class sizes remain relatively small. Most courses are strongly vocational, with a technological thrust. A high proportion of students take sandwich courses. All receive computer training, and modern languages are being

Polytechnic Full-time students: 3,826 (f), 5,207 (m)

1,841 arts, 4,672 sciences Now the largest university in the region, Plymouth has taken in an art college in Exeter, an agricultural college near Newton Abbot, and a college of education in Exmouth in recent years. It also has responsibility for Dartington College of Art and is franchising courses to other colleges in the South West.

Unlike many other new universities, 90 per cent of Plymouth's students are on full-time or sandwich courses. The prospect of a residential place varies between the campuses: there are 700 places reserved for first-years in Plymouth, accommodation is guaranteed in Exmouth and Newton Abbot, but students have to rely on the private sector in Exeter. The

Full-time students: 3,404 (f), 5,249 (m)

4,692 arts, 3,961 sciences Portsmouth has been pursuing university status for longer than most, having only narrowly missed it before the polytechnics were established. Some 30 buildings are spread around the city centre, with a second campus three miles away at Milton. Languages are a particular strength. One student in five takes a language course of some sort, and the facilities rival most of the traditional universities.

Science courses achieved the highest ratings in last year's polytechnic quality awards. Engineering and health sciences also came out well. Six halls, some overlooking the sea, provide about 1,000 residential places, three-quarters of which are reserved for first-years. A recently extended library is one of the best among the new universities.

### READING

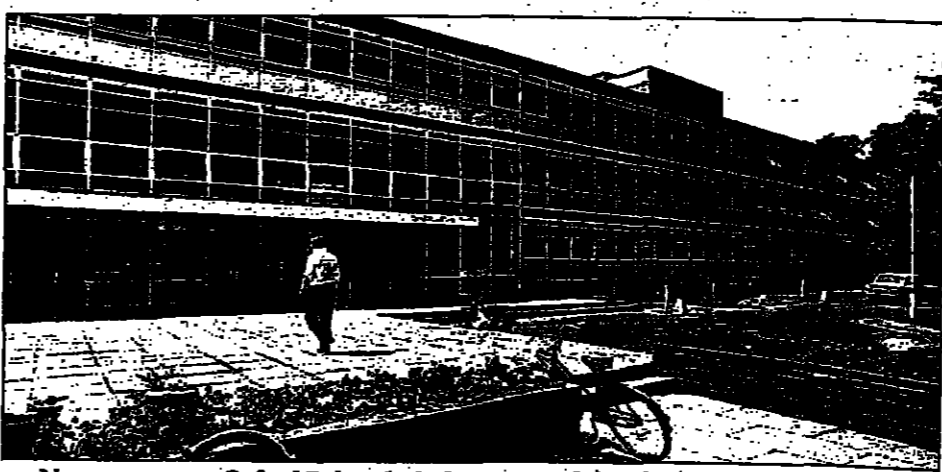
Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading RG6 2AH (0734 875123)

Established 1892 Full-time students: 4,152 (f), 4,092 (m)

3,642 arts, 2,295 sciences Best known for its agricultural courses (CDD), which have always attracted large numbers of overseas students. Reading is also strong in subjects as diverse as French (BBC) and the physical sciences. A merger with Bournemouth College has strengthened education courses, as well as introducing film and drama (BBC) and American studies (BBC).

The main campus is set in 300 acres of parkland on the outskirts of Reading. Although there are 13 halls of residence, first-years are guaranteed a place only if they are holding Reading as a firm choice by May 30. The university likes to mix students in terms of subjects and years.

Arts and social science students take three subjects for their first two terms. Science degrees are modular. Few departments interview their applicants.



Newcomer: now Oxford Polytechnic, but soon to be Oxford Brookes University

and another stifled by green belt restrictions, the new university has called a temporary halt to expansion. Students complain that lecture theatres are packed, while facilities such as the library, crèche and computer suites struggle to meet demand. Open University-style learning packages are being introduced to cope with larger classes. Students construct their own degrees from a programme of more than 600 modules. examinations coming every term. The computer facilities

introduced into business and management courses. Science students can take the first year of a degree in one of three further education colleges before going to Paisley. Sports facilities and accommodation are being upgraded. With only 720 residential places, priority is given to first-years from homes more than 25 miles away.

### PLYMOUTH

Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA (0752 600600)

Formerly Polytechnic South West, previously Plymouth

university is best known for a variety of marine studies, which also have an established research record. As a polytechnic, Plymouth collected a shoal of quality awards last year, faring best in the sciences, mathematics and computing, social science and environmental courses.

### PORTSMOUTH

University House, Winston Churchill Avenue, Portsmouth PO1 2UP (0705 827681)

Formerly Portsmouth Polytechnic

**ROBERT GORDON**  
Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB9  
1FR (0224 633611)  
Formerly The Robert Gordon  
Institute of Technology  
Full-time students: 2,185 (f),  
2,415 (m)  
2,359 arts, 2,241 sciences  
Early links with the North  
Sea oil and gas industries  
exemplify the new university's  
commitment to vocational  
education.  
Other strengths include  
engineering, pharmacy,  
business and management,  
art and design, and  
architecture. Flexible courses  
are linked to the Scottish credit  
accumulation system,  
allowing easy transfer in and  
out of the institution.  
The main city centre campus  
adjoins Aberdeen art gallery.  
As well as four other sites in  
the city, the university runs an  
attractive field study centre at  
Cromarty, in the Highlands.  
First-years are given priority  
for the 1,000 residential  
places. Another 400 places  
should be available in 1993.

**ST ANDREWS**  
College Gate, North Street, St  
Andrews KY16 9AJ (0334  
761611)  
Established 1411  
Full-time students: 2,155 (f),  
2,046 (m)  
2,145 arts, 1,683 sciences  
The oldest Scottish university  
and the third oldest in the  
UK. St Andrews used to be  
dominated by students from  
south of the border. Scottish  
students now make up almost  
half the undergraduates and  
a majority of postgraduates.  
The university retains many  
colourful traditions. New  
students acquire third or  
fourth-year "parents" to ease  
them into university life, and  
on Raisin Monday give them  
a bottle of wine in return for a  
Latin receipt.  
St Andrews rates highly for  
languages (ABB for English),  
physiology (three Cs),  
philosophy and history (both  
three Bs). First-years are  
guaranteed one of 2,600  
residential places. A new hall  
of 350 rooms with en suite  
facilities should be ready next  
year.

**SALFORD**  
Salford M5 4WT  
(061-745 5000)  
Established 1967, originally a  
college of advanced  
technology  
Full-time students: 1,701 (f),  
1,402 arts, 2,998 sciences  
The main victim of the  
university cuts of the 1980s,  
Salford has bounced back as  
the prototype decentralised,  
customer-oriented institution  
cited approvingly by  
ministers. About 40 per cent  
of the students are on  
sandwich courses, many  
abroad.  
The landscaped campus is  
two miles from the centre of  
Manchester, and has a  
mainline railway station.  
First-years are guaranteed  
accommodation close enough  
to cycle to lectures. Private  
rents are relatively low.  
European studies and  
engineering (three Cs for  
mechanical) are among the  
university's strengths. Salford  
is one of the traditional  
universities being steered  
towards teaching. This year  
research funds are effectively  
frozen.

**SHEFFIELD**  
Sheffield S10 2TN (0742  
768355)  
Established 1897, royal  
charter 1905  
Full-time students: 4,459 (f),  
6,270 (m)  
4,669 sciences  
Sheffield suffers in our  
rankings for an outstanding  
year in 1991, when it received  
the top allocations among the  
traditional universities for  
both teaching and research.  
There was little room for  
improvement this year.  
It consistently features in the  
top three for the volume of  
applications and is especially  
strong in psychology (three  
Bs), electronic engineering  
(BBC), architecture (three Bs),  
social policy (BBC) and law  
(ABB). Modular degrees and  
a semester system are being  
introduced.  
First-years are almost certain  
of one of the 3,750 residential  
places, which are within  
walking distance of the main  
precinct close to the city  
centre. Sheffield courses are  
also offered in a network of  
further education colleges,  
mainly in the north of  
England, and a £100-million  
university college is planned  
for the Dearne Valley, 12  
miles to the north.

**SHEFFIELD  
HALLAM**  
Pond Street, Sheffield  
S1 1WB (0742 720911)  
Formerly Sheffield  
Polytechnic  
Full-time students: 5,137 (f),  
6,998 (m)  
6,862 arts, 5,611 sciences  
The new university is  
undergoing an £80-million  
transformation designed to  
alter its image and revitalise  
Sheffield's drab city centre  
with two modern campuses.  
Expansion and consolidation,  
it is hoped, will cut costs,  
make life easier for students  
and staff, and allow one of the

largest of the former  
polytechnics to grow to  
20,000 students before long.  
Although there are only  
2,100 residential places,  
private rents are relatively low.  
Business and industry are  
closely involved in developing  
the 100 full-time and 150  
part-time courses, most of  
which are applied. There is  
also growing strength in  
applied research, which  
provides more income than  
most of the new universities  
can command.

**SOUTH BANK**  
103 Borough Road, London  
SE1 0AA (071-928 8989)  
Formerly South Bank  
Polytechnic  
Full-time students: 3,682 (f),  
5,113 (m)  
2,745 arts, 6,050 sciences  
South Bank, "the university  
without ivory towers", has  
stayed closer than most to the  
original brief for the  
polytechnics, specialising in  
engineering, design, business  
and management, and the  
built environment.  
Almost three-quarters of the  
students live locally, many  
coming from south London's  
ethnic communities. The  
university does not accept  
responsibility for student  
accommodation, although  
first-years are given priority in  
the three halls of residence.  
Sporting prowess is a  
particular source of pride,  
facilities including two  
gymnasiums and a large sports  
ground in Dulwich.  
Academic facilities include a  
new library, which is one of  
the most technologically  
advanced in the country.

**SOUTHAMPTON**  
Highfield, Southampton  
SO9 5NH (0703 595000)  
Established 1862, royal  
charter 1952  
Full-time students: 3,202 (f),  
4,712 (m)  
2,592 arts, 3,836 sciences  
The university is outgrowing  
its compact campus three  
miles out of the city centre, but  
proposals for new sites have  
become bogged down in  
planning procedures. New  
buildings have opened  
recently for electronics and  
oceanography, which may get  
its own dockside research  
centre.  
Chemistry (BBC), electronic  
engineering (three Bs),  
economics (BBC) and ship  
science (CCD) are among the  
top-rated degrees. Medicine  
(three Bs) offers clinical  
experience even in the first  
two years, allowing fourth-  
year students to specialise.  
About 40 per cent of  
Southampton students live  
in university accommodation,  
although first-years are  
guaranteed a place only if  
they accept by the end of May.  
There is one hall designed for  
disabled students.

**STAFFORDSHIRE**  
College Road, Stoke-on-Trent  
ST4 2DE (0782 744531)  
Formerly Staffordshire  
(originally North Staffs)  
Polytechnic  
Full-time students: 2,941 (f),  
4,392 (m)  
4,066 arts, 3,267 sciences  
Two-thirds of the staff have  
moved their place of work in a  
massive rationalisation of  
space designed to cope with  
expanding student numbers.  
There are two campuses:  
at Stafford and the main site in  
Stoke, including the futuristic  
Octagon Centre, in which  
lecture theatres, offices and  
walkways surround a huge  
concourse containing more  
than 300 advanced computer  
workstations.  
The business school, which  
did well in the polytechnics'  
quality ratings, straddles both  
sites in a deliberate attempt to  
foster links with the private  
sector. Courses are being  
developed in enterprise,  
innovation and communications.  
Good sports facilities are a  
major attraction: three  
students won medals at last  
year's World Student Games.  
Hundreds of residential  
places have been built since a  
widely-publicised  
accommodation shortage two  
years ago.

**STIRLING**  
Stirling FK9 4LA  
(0786 731711)  
Established 1967  
Full-time students: 1,900 (f),  
1,900 (m)  
2,250 arts, 750 sciences  
One of the most beautiful  
campuses in Britain features  
low-level buildings in a  
lochsides setting beneath the  
Ochil Hills. First-years are  
guaranteed one of the 2,600  
campus places, and there will  
soon be 230 more.  
Stirling was the British  
pioneer of the semester  
system. The academic year is  
divided into two 15-week  
halves.  
Although the university is  
highly rated in some research  
fields — notably aquaculture  
— it is being encouraged to  
concentrate on teaching. Film  
and media studies (ABB) is  
particularly popular, and the  
Scottish Centre for Japanese  
Studies, which offers  
Japanese with a range of  
other subjects, is breaking  
new ground. Business and  
management courses (three  
Bs) are also well regarded.

**SURREY**  
Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH  
(0483 308000)  
Established 1966 from  
college of technology  
Full-time students: 1,857 (f),  
2,346 (m)  
1,074 arts, 2,328 sciences  
Surrey's technological  
background has helped it to a  
regular place near the top of  
the graduate employment  
league, as well as boosting  
research income. However,  
arts courses have also been  
growing recently.  
The university hit the  
headlines this year for having  
the youngest graduate of

**STRATHCLYDE**  
Richmond Street, Glasgow  
G1 1XQ (041-552 4400)  
Established 1794, royal  
charter 1964  
Full-time students: 2,941 (f),  
4,392 (m)  
4,066 arts, 3,266 sciences  
Almost a third of Strathclyde's  
students are over 21 at entry,  
many coming with non-  
traditional qualifications.  
A merger with Jordanhill  
College of Education will  
increase the diversity.  
However, it is shedding its  
image as a "nine to five"  
university with a new student  
village on the campus, which  
borders Glasgow's chic  
Merchant City. First-years are  
given priority for the 2,200  
residential places.  
Courses are tailored to the  
needs of industry, with a five-  
year degree in international  
business and modern  
languages (BBC) among the  
most popular. The business  
school is one of the largest in  
Britain, and a BSc in forensic  
and analytical chemistry  
(three Cs) is unique in  
Europe. Courses are modular.

**SUNDERLAND**  
Edinburgh Building, Chester  
Road, Sunderland SR1 3SD  
(091-515 2082)  
Full-time students: 3,173 (f),  
3,982 (m)  
2,046 arts, 3,577 sciences  
Sunderland is pioneering a  
scheme to extend access to  
local people without A-levels.  
Students who have reached  
the required level of  
numeracy, literacy and other  
basic skills will be admitted by  
interview on the  
recommendation of their  
colleges.  
A high proportion of home-  
based students enables the  
university to accommodate  
most first-years, even though  
it has only 900 residential  
places. Most are within  
walking distance of the two  
town centre sites.  
Only the teacher training and  
part-time business courses  
received quality awards last  
year. As well as working  
closely with local colleges,  
Sunderland is active in  
Europe through links with  
more than 60 Continental  
universities and colleges.

year abroad and established  
favourites such as American  
studies (BBC) still highly  
rated, places are still in  
demand.  
First-years and the many  
overseas students have first  
call on the plentiful campus  
accommodation. Most second  
and third-year students  
choose to live in  
Brighton itself.

**TEESSIDE**  
Borough Road,  
Middlesbrough, Cleveland  
TS1 3BA (0642 606755)  
Formerly Teesside  
Polytechnic  
Full-time students: 1,967 (f),  
3,444 (m)  
2,980 arts, 2,431 sciences  
The university has made good  
use of its links with  
multinational corporations in  
the area, such as ICI. It is no  
coincidence that chemical  
engineering and computing  
are two of the strongest  
subjects. Art and design is

also highly rated.  
Student accommodation is  
scarce, although there are  
plans to provide more. The  
university is based near the  
centre of Middlesbrough,  
with an outpost four miles out  
of town.  
Teesside has entered the  
university era with a new vice-  
chancellor and development  
plans that should lift it from  
its position near the foot of the  
Times table. Collaboration  
with Durham on the joint  
university college project  
featured yesterday, is one sign  
of its ambition.

**THAMES VALLEY**  
St Mary's Road, Ealing,  
London W5 5RF  
(081-579 5000)  
Polytechnic of West London  
Full-time students: 3,300 (f),  
2,900 (m)  
4,000 arts, 1,200 sciences  
Thames Valley is another of  
the new universities to have  
enjoyed a meteoric rise after  
years of waiting for  
polytechnic status. Two years  
ago, it did not exist, and  
Ealing and Thames Valley

was formed. Its charter was  
unique in stipulating that  
there should be courses below  
degree level.  
Community consciousness  
has done the university's  
reputation no harm in  
Ireland, however. The main  
Belfast campus has never  
been busier, and the  
expanded Magee College, in  
Londonderry, attracts  
students from both sides of  
the border. The original  
university at Coleraine is  
more traditional.  
The university has fewer than  
1,000 residential places, but a  
high proportion of the  
students live at home. The  
academic year is divided into  
two semesters, with an added  
summer teaching period.

**WALES**  
Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1  
3NS (0222 32656)  
Established 1893  
Full-time students: 12,817 (f),  
13,147 (m)  
Second only to its federal  
counterpart, London, in terms  
of size, it is surrendering more  
power to the colleges.

**BANGOR**  
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57  
2DG (0248 351151)  
Established 1884  
Full-time students: 1,850 (f),  
2,088 (m)  
1,633 arts, 1,508 sciences  
Having closed several  
departments in a  
restructuring exercise, Bangor  
is concentrating on its  
strengths and aims to double  
student numbers by the end  
of the decade.  
Sport, health and PE (BBC) is  
popular, agroforestry (CCD)  
unique in Britain, while  
oceanography students  
benefit from two research  
ships. Several departments  
offer Welsh speakers bilingual  
unions.  
One of the seven halls is  
Welsh-speaking. First-years  
are guaranteed one of the  
1,600 residential places.  
Another 500 will be available  
next year.

**CARDIFF**  
PO Box 68, Cardiff CF1 3XA  
(0222 87400)  
Established 1888 from  
merger of University College  
(1883) and UWIST (1866)  
Full-time students: 4,587 (f),  
5,260 (m)  
3,980 arts, 4,097 sciences  
Cardiff is by far the largest of  
the university's colleges. A £30  
million engineering complex,  
with state of the art physics  
and astronomy facilities, is  
nearing completion.  
Many of the 400 degrees  
feature a common first year,  
allowing students to defer  
their choice of specialism.  
Preliminary years are  
available in engineering and  
biology for students with arts  
qualifications.  
The college is popular with  
overseas students, and has  
centres for both Japanese and  
Chinese studies. First-years  
are guaranteed one of the  
3,500 residential places.

**ST DAVID'S**  
Lampeter, Dyfed SA48 7ED  
(0570 422351)  
Established 1822. University  
of Wales 1971  
Full-time students: 551 (f),  
503 (m)  
1,005 arts, 8 sciences  
In the whole of England and  
Wales, only Oxford and  
Cambridge were awarding  
degrees before Lampeter. Yet  
only Buckingham is smaller.  
The college occupies an  
ancient castle site in rural  
Wales. Most students live in,  
and first-years are guaranteed  
accommodation.  
Bachelors of arts or divinity  
are the only undergraduate  
degrees, and several  
departments offer teaching in  
Welsh. Other languages  
include Swedish (CCD),  
Arabic and Greek.

**SWANSEA**  
Singleton Park, Swansea SA2  
8PP (0792 205678)  
Established 1920

Full-time students: 3,207 (f),  
2,684 (m)  
2,945 arts, 2,026 sciences  
A very public controversy over  
plagiarism appears not to  
have prejudiced Swansea's  
plans to increase student  
numbers to 10,000 by the  
end of the decade. Philosophy  
(BBC), where the row took  
place over PhD theses, soon  
filled its places.  
The college specialises in  
European integration, with  
84 Continental links. Many  
of the 25 new courses have a  
language component, and  
next year a new law school  
will offer both international  
and European law.  
Closer to home, the college is  
launching a "university of the  
valleys" for mature students in  
an area of high  
unemployment. The 2,700  
residential places can  
accommodate all first-years  
living away from home.

**WARWICK**  
Coventry CV4 7AL (0203  
523523)  
Founded 1964  
Full-time students: 3,493 (f),  
3,812 (m)  
4,045 arts, 2,147 sciences  
In its early years Warwick has  
derided by some for its close  
links with business and  
industry. Few are critical  
today.  
The excellence of the 34  
departments has brought a  
major European award, as  
well as sixth place in the  
Times rankings. Biological  
sciences (three Cs),  
mathematics (AAB), social  
sciences (ABC for economics)  
and management (three Bs)  
are among the many  
strengths.  
The campus, three miles out  
of Coventry, contains almost  
3,500 residential places,  
many with en suite facilities.  
Its research standing is  
enhanced by one of the most  
successful science parks.

**WESTMINSTER**  
309 Regent Street, London  
W1R 8AL (071-911 5000)  
Formerly Polytechnic of  
Central London  
Full-time students: 3,510 (f),  
4,290 (m)  
4,080 arts, 3,720 sciences  
Almost 20 sites sprawl across  
London, from the West End  
to Harrow, where major  
development is planned. The  
12,500 part-time students  
easily outnumber the full-  
timers.

Accommodation is still a  
problem, since only a  
minority of the full-timers live  
at home and the university  
has more students per place  
than most others. First-years  
are given priority.  
Language teaching is one of  
Westminster's strengths, with  
26 different languages  
available from the most basic  
level to postgraduate study.  
Art and design, engineering,  
computing, architecture and  
environmental subjects are  
also rated highly. The  
university is a leader in the  
Enterprise in Higher  
Education Initiative, which  
weaves work-related skills into  
degree programmes.

**WOLVERHAMPTON**  
Wulfruna Street,  
Wolverhampton WV1 1SB  
(0902 321000)  
Formerly Wolverhampton  
Polytechnic  
Full-time students: 4,793 (f),  
4,022 (m)  
6,007 arts, 2,808 sciences  
Wolverhampton pioneered  
the high-street higher  
education shop, which has  
brought in thousands who  
might never have continued  
their education. There are  
now 16,000 full and part-  
time students, and plans for  
increases of 6 per cent a year.  
The new university runs a big  
"outreach" programme,  
taking courses directly to the  
workplace. It also has a  
campus at Telford, to add to  
the Walsall base it acquired  
three years ago.  
Accommodation on the five  
sites is limited, but many of  
the students live at home. The  
biggest schools are law, which  
has more than 500 students  
worldwide, and teacher  
education.

**YORK**  
Heslington, York YO1 5DD  
(0904 430000)  
Established 1963  
Full-time students: 2,062 (f),  
2,564 (m)  
1,967 arts, 1,691 sciences  
An outstanding 12th place in  
the Times rankings  
demonstrates the scale of  
York's achievements. All those  
placed higher in the table are  
significantly larger.  
Growth in science and  
technology over the last  
decade has balanced an initial  
bias towards the arts and  
social sciences, although most  
of the top-rated subjects are  
still in the established areas.  
Economics (BBC), social  
policy (BBC) and ecology  
(three Cs) are among the  
university's strengths.  
The seven colleges (one  
reserved for postgraduates)  
mix academic and social  
roles. First-years are  
guaranteed a place on the  
lakeside campus two miles  
from the centre of York.

The Times Good  
University Guide is edited  
by John O'Leary



King's College, Cambridge: the university came top in both our entry qualifications and staffing tables

## Getting in and getting on

Cambridge is both the most difficult university to get into and the best staffed, according to *The Times* survey. Oxford is not far behind on either measure, although Edinburgh edges ahead on staffing levels (John O'Leary writes).

### ENTRY STANDARDS

1. Cambridge
2. Oxford
3. Durham
4. LSE
5. Bristol
6. Bath
7. Imperial College
8. Edinburgh
9. York
10. Manchester

growing numbers of mature students will make A-level grades increasingly unreliable as a guide to entry standards.

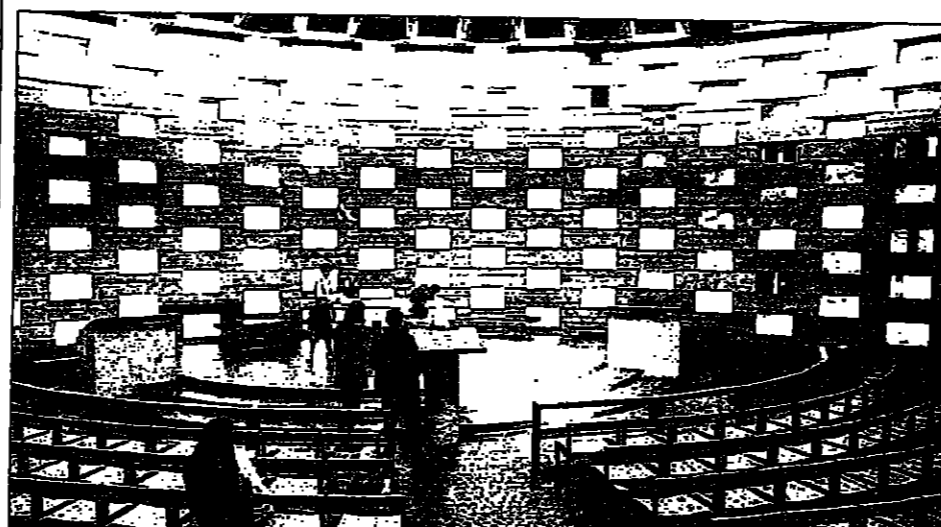
### TOP TEN STAFFING

1. Cambridge
2. Edinburgh
3. Oxford
4. Imperial College
5. King's College
6. Queen's, Belfast
7. Queen Mary, London
8. York
9. Manchester
10. Newcastle

volume of applications has its distortions. Cambridge, for example, has relatively few applicants to the place because its reputation for selectivity deters all but the most able candidates.

The likes of Manchester's computer engineering degree, or Oxford's in estate management, have long competed with traditional university courses on A-level grades.

Of the new universities, the best staffing ratings go to Glamorgan, which makes the top 20, and Leeds Metropolitan immediately behind it. The gulf in entry standards is wider, with Oxford Brooks and Middlesex demanding the highest grades.



Breaking down the barriers: the meeting house, a non-denominational chapel at Sussex

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

PO Box 2, Aberystwyth,  
Dyfed SY23 2AX  
(0970 623111)  
Established 1872  
Full-time students: 2,020 (f),  
2,155 (m)  
2,202 arts, 1,135 sciences  
A seaside location is one  
reason that the Aberystwyth  
college was heavily  
oversubscribed this year. The  
10,500 applicants chasing  
1,350 places represented a  
record for the college.  
Another 600 residential  
places have been added to  
head off a repeat of the  
problems experienced in  
1991. A new student village  
will open next year and  
teaching accommodation is  
also being increased.  
Students need not choose  
their honours subject until the  
end of their first year. Degrees  
will be fully modular by next  
year.

colleges had only just agreed  
to merge.  
The university has been trying  
to expand its Ealing base, and  
in Slough, too, it occupies a  
town centre site. The  
polytechnic enjoyed a good  
reputation in law, languages,  
business and some sciences.  
More than half the students  
take a language course.  
First-years are given priority  
for the 300 residential places.  
Private sector rents are high.



Lynne Truss

### ■ The way we retell fairy tales to today's children exposes our pressing social anxieties

At the cinema these days there is a rather peculiar advert for jeans. It is basically a witty rewriting of Cinderella, but since it appears to have been edited by a madman run wild with a bacon-slicer, the narrative unfolds so precipitately that it takes at least two viewings to get the gist. Anyway, it goes something like this. Clock strikes bong for midnight. Boy rushes off without his jeans. Girl holds jeans to face with funny wistful-but-determined look in her eyes, then hawks jeans around town, getting big fat men to try them on. Finally, she locates her beloved, who burns up a treat. And that's it. Allowing for how difficult it is to make trousers even slightly interesting, this ad is a huge success.

The thing about fairy tales, surely, is that they can be used to sell anything; indeed, it is almost their primary function. Anyone who thinks it is radical of the Disney studio to turn the heroine of *Beauty and the Beast* into a modern-thinking self-determined book-lover ("There must be more than this provincial life!" she sings discontentedly, several times), is right in only one respect. Yes, it is radical of the Disney studio. Previously Disney sold other things: now it is selling this. A generation of girls grew up believing that to be a heroine (Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty) all you required were a decent wistling technique, first-class handiness with a broom, and an ability to sleep for extended periods in a glass box without musing your make-up or dribbling on your frock. And as values go, these were probably OK for the time.

But my point is this. In the traditional folk tale, women were not these puny types. Big tears did not roll down their pretty faces, and they did not wear rouge. Instead, they rescued princes from enchantment, tipped witches into ovens, all that. The reason we know only of the rescue-me namsy-pamsies is that we inherit our knowledge of folk tales from the Victorians, whose respect for divergent viewpoints, especially in the realm of sexual politics, was notoriously meagre. Funny how *The Sleeping Prince* got dropped from the canon, wasn't it? I wonder why.

But as Alison Lurie points out in her marvellous book on children's literature, *Don't Tell the Grown-Ups*, even the Grimm brothers tidied up the tales to reflect the mores. "In each subsequent edition of the tales," writes Lurie, "women were given less to say and do." At issue, of course, is whether it is cynical and outrageous to impose modern values on traditional stories. When George Cruikshank, the Victorian illustrator, rewrote four of his favourite fairy stories as temperance tracts, Charles Dickens countered with a brilliant essay, *Frauds on the Fairies* (1853), denouncing the practice. But what is odd now is to see how certain Dickens was that the versions he remembered from childhood were necessarily the originals. Cruikshank, thundered Dickens, "has altered the text of a fairy story; and against his right to do any such thing we protest with all our might and main... Whosoever alters them to suit his own opinions, whatever they are, is guilty of an act of presumption, and appropriates to himself what does not belong to him."

Dickens boiled with sarcasm ("Imagine a Total Abstinence edition of Robinson Crusoe, with the run left out. Imagine a Peace edition, with the gunpowder left out, and the run left in"; and then embarked on a thoroughly sardonic rewrite of Cinderella incorporating absurdly modish references to tax reform, vegetarianism and, interestingly, the rights of women. Cinderella, in this version, was a moral swit and reviler of meat, who on becoming queen did all sorts of absurdly modish things. She "threw open the right of voting, and of being elected to public offices, and of making the laws, to the whole of her sex; who thus came to be always gloriously occupied with public life and 'whom nobody dared to love'". It is the mark of a great writer that he allows his own imagination to scare him like this. Come to think of it, this must have been the version that was read to the infant Neil Lyndon in his cot.

Where does it all stop? Well it won't stop at all, of course. Walt Disney is supposed to have said, "People don't want fairy stories the way they were written. In the end they'll probably remember the story the way we film it anyway." But now Linda Woolverton, the scriptwriter of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, has started saying she would like to remake "the old Disney's", so it turns out that nothing is sacred after all. Cinderella, she says, needs to stand up to the ugly sisters, stop hanging around with mice, and not necessarily marry the prince. Hm. Snow White should not stay at home all day but work with her chums in the mines and marry one of the vertically challenged men with pickaxes. And lastly, Sleeping Beauty — the most famously inert character of them all — should "track down and personally punish" her wicked stepmother immediately she wakes up in the glass box. Whether she will punish her stepmother by making her watch the new version of Cinderella is not made clear.

I promise I didn't make any of this up. I just wonder how serious Linda Woolverton was when she said it. Currently she has been let loose by Disney on a remake of the famous animal adventure film *The Incredible Journey*, which seems at first glance to have fewer opportunities for political correctness, although the cat could have a wooden leg. Meanwhile, it ought to be said that Belle may indeed be a book-reader, who swoons at the sight of the Beast's enormous library, yet she is a traditional heroine in most other respects. She is kind, friendly, chaste with cockney tea-pots, and has enormous eyes. And of course she is ever so, ever so pretty. But then "Passable Looking and the Beast" doesn't have quite the same ring to it somehow.

The campaigners opposing a 24-hour news station are daft know-nothings, writes broadcaster Janet Daley

## Radio 4 needs to change

I remember a letter published in a New York newspaper years ago which complained that the reader's favourite television quiz shows had been cancelled to make room for coverage of the "boring" presidential campaign. The editor described it in print as the best example of civic idiocy he had ever seen. But traits which in the United States are associated with morose couch potatoes are seen here as a species of charm. Where else in the world would people take to the streets to demand not to be given a fuller news service? Mercifully, the BBC seems not to have buckled under the onslaught of this dotty campaign to keep up-to-date information away from the common herd.

In the early months of this year, came the surprising pronouncement that it would, after all, come to pass. And so that there would be no untoward disruption of the nation's listening habits, the news channel would occupy only the long-wave frequency while Radio 4

FM went on as before. And were the twice-blessed audience happy? Not on your life. Not content with having their favourite programmes broadcast on one wavelength, the die-hards were adamant that they should continue to monopolise both just in case they should, while on holiday in the outer Hebrides or in exile in the Dordogne, be deprived of *Gardener's Question Time*.

The argument from abroad has been one of the most militant voices in this eminently silly crusade. The fact that listeners in France are able to pick up Radio 4 on long wave is a bit of accidental good fortune which enables them to get a service for which they have not paid. It is absurd for them to regard access to this broadcasting as an inalienable right which supersedes the chance to

give licence payers a greater variety of programming.

The wavelength question was one the BBC could not win. Had news radio taken over the FM band, the people now shrieking about losing the LW transmission would have been far outnumbered by those protesting that their radios did not even get LW. But what this is about is something far more fundamental to the British psyche even than *Desert Island Discs*. It is about resisting change, particularly an innovation which threatens to unsettle one with unexpected and unsettling information which might, quite without warning, oblige one to do something.

As regular listeners will know, I am a Radio 4 broadcaster myself and when I am not on the air, I am usually listening, so my interests are pretty much

identical to those who are now agitating. But it seems to me to border on the loony to feel threatened by the trivial adjustments to listening habits which this new service may make necessary. What shocks me most about this determination to remain uninformed for as long as possible, is the failure to see that there is something which might be gained.

The British have a profound complacency and defeatism about information. Not only should you avoid questioning the amount and quality of it that is doled out to you, but there is something positively gauche about seeking it out. Thus, the most effective weapon against the idea of 24-hour news is a smug snigger, as if it were vulgar to want to know too much and to want to know it right now, rather than after it

has been predigested by the people in charge of what one ought to be told.

On Black Wednesday, while the pound went through the floor and interest rates through the roof, a happy few had up-to-the-minute information about what was happening. Apart from government officials and their acolytes, there were journalists, owners of satellite dishes and, most significantly, speculators in the city dealing rooms who had access to the wire services. But the ordinary Joe with a business hanging on by its fingernails and a mortgage in the stratosphere, had to sweat it out until the next scheduled news bulletin to find out whether he was still solvent.

One of the best things about a non-stop news and current affairs service is that, in a crisis, it gives politicians and their

henchmen fewer places to hide. Once the possibility is established of constant interrogation, and the right of the ordinary citizen to have information made available to him as quickly as to anyone else, a quite different sense of accountability can develop. Of course, the real threat to British official habits is that giving people immediate information might give them dangerous ideas about sticking their oars in.

After all, the best way to stop people making informed objections is to see to it that they know too little to do so. To avoid a well-founded critique of the Maastricht treaty, just avoid publishing it. Then you can always accuse its critics of being uninformed. And, of course, there is no point in listening to people who know so much less about what is going on than you do. So the political club and the economic manipulators would go their own way and the poor devils who had to take the consequences would hear about it only when it was too late.

## Who won the great debate?

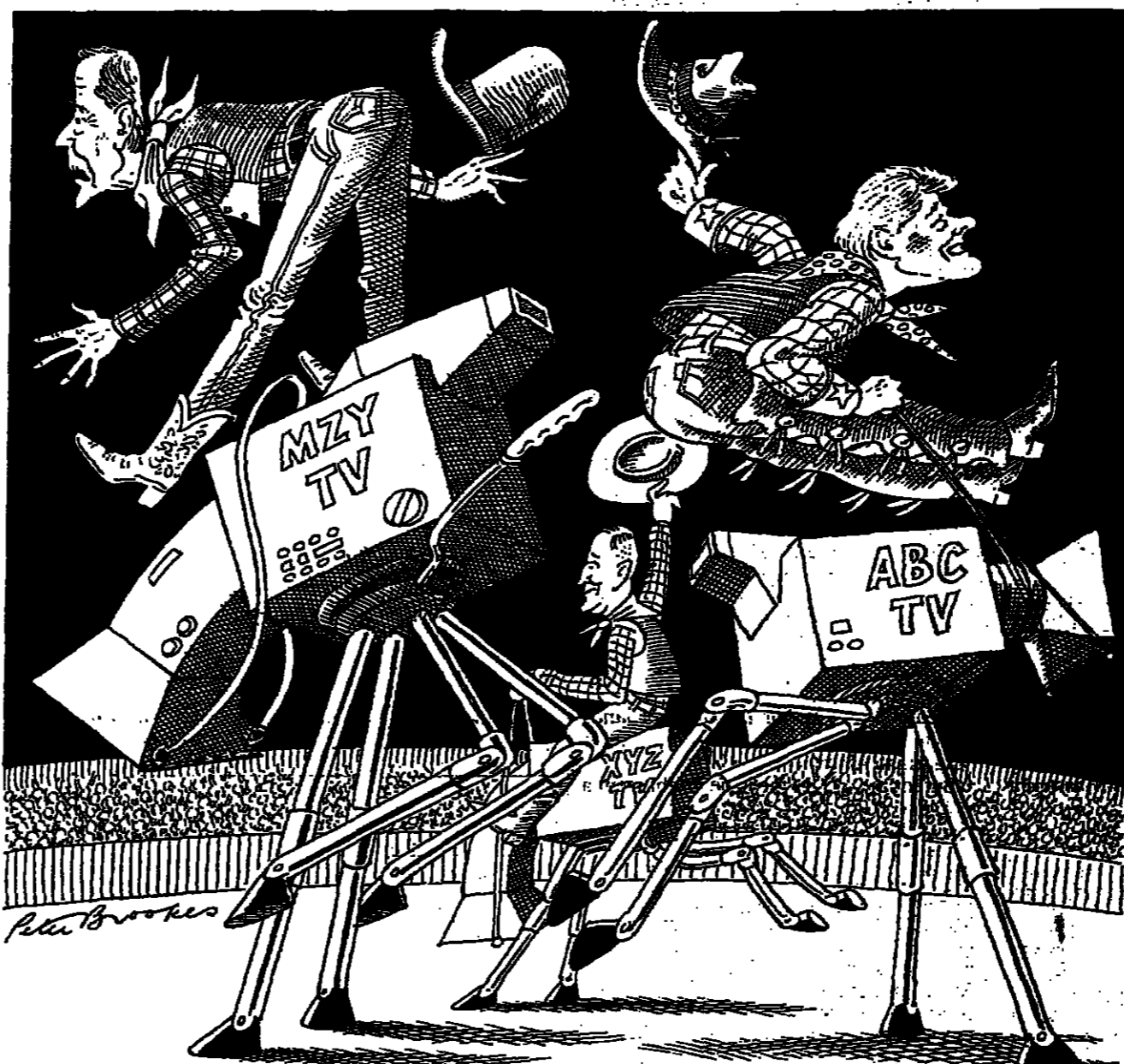
Anthony Howard, in St Louis, on Sunday night's spectacular

Like nearly all much touted political events the first of this year's presidential debates proved to be something of an anticlimax. That was partly the fault of the improbable figure who stole the show, Ross Perot. From the moment he walked down the hall three quarters of an hour early — receiving the plaudits of his supporters on the way — he had made up his mind that it was to be his night. And so indeed it turned out. Incisive, witty and never betraying the slightest sign of being intimidated, he effectively upstaged both of the main contenders. The spin doctors on either side almost tumbled over themselves in their eagerness to yield him the victor's palm.

The truth, of course, was that neither the Republicans nor the Democrats were too unhappy about that. Contrary to most of the excited journalistic speculation, they had not wanted this first debate to "define" as the jargon has it, this year's presidential election. The risks were altogether too great for that. Much better to agree to call it a stand-off and to point to the sparkling performance of Mr Perot as having detracted from the appeal (according to where you came from) of either President Bush or Governor Clinton.

Neither, in fact, disgraced himself. If the president never rose above his normal somewhat plaintive tone, the governor seldom contrived to sound anything else but prosaic. Afterwards, the mood was perhaps slightly more defensive in the Democratic camp than the Republican one; but that was probably because the president's supporters started from a lower base. Their genuine anxiety had always been that Bill Clinton — through youth, good looks or simply the brash confidence that comes from being ahead — would be able to use the occasion to borrow the jargon again to "clinch the deal with the American people". The Democratic candidate never quite managed to score that kind of decisive home-run.

But then, as his own psycho-



logical warriors tirelessly insisted, he hardly needed to do so. Never has the essentially cautious, almost complacent, nature of the campaign the Democrats are fighting this election been more vividly exposed than in the immediate aftermath of this first debate. No one is interested in what actually happened: the battle is about what people can be persuaded to believe they thought took place. To that end, the spin doctors swarm like locusts over the press camp followers just as soon as the proceedings are over. Normally, they are quite ready to claim a triumph where patently none existed. The most revealing aspect of the performance of the Clinton campaign's psychological warriors on this occasion was that they did not even feel the

need to bother to try. Yes, they conceded in effect, their man had not hit the ball out of the park. But it was George Bush who needed to do that. He, after all, was behind and, unless he could manage to pull something out of the bag, the election was virtually over. But it ought surely to be part of the job of a party challenging for power to engender an atmosphere of excitement and enthusiasm into any presidential campaign. And it is here that the Clinton effort has not only failed but appears now to have given up trying.

One of the most unattractive sights in politics is that of a party which seems to have settled simply for coasting to victory. It is also frequently perilous, as poor Neil Kinnock discovered to his cost last April. The Democratic campaign is certainly in

much better shape than Labour's was then: for one thing, it has enjoyed consistent poll leads of a steady 10 per cent for more than three months, whereas Labour never got more than one of 7 per cent.

It is not just a transatlantic analogy that Bill Clinton should worry about. There was once a Republican candidate for the presidency who behaved in very much the same way. His name was Thomas E. Dewey, defeated by Harry Truman in 1948. If he has any niche in history today, it is probably in Alice Roosevelt Longworth's description of him as "the man who fell off the wedding cake".

It is unkind, no doubt, to portray Mr Clinton as any form of Dewey, though there are some liberal Democrats who are starting to regard him in much

the same light. True, their objection is largely doctrinal. Can there ever have been any other Democratic standard bearer who even contemplated making part of his appeal to the electorate his support for capital punishment? That is now being deliberately promoted by the Democrats in one of their 30-second spot commercials.

The uncomfortable truth is that a candidate, who chooses to renounce the whole ideological inheritance of his party, must always be in a vulnerable position. "We have risen above principle," some wag commented at the time of the Democratic Convention last July. Although the remark was delivered with a cheerful cynicism, it will undoubtedly come back to haunt the Clinton campaign if the Republicans manage to hold

onto the White House in November.

The balance of probability, even after the failure of the first debate to settle the issue, must still make that the less likely outcome. But there is another flaw in the opposition party's case. The Democrats have talked a great deal in this election of their horror of "negative campaigning". They have contrived to do so without a blush of hypocrisy — and the Bush campaign's clumsy efforts in this area have not made that too difficult for them. But what Mr Clinton's party has never been required to do is to address its attention to the essentially negative nature of its own appeal. Put brutally, they are fighting on one thing and one thing only — that their candidate is not George Bush.

In a curious way, that still leaves the initiative with the president. He may not have managed to do it on Sunday night but he only has to step out of character sufficiently for the mass of voters to revise their estimate of him.

It is possible that he went into the first debate feeling that his opponent had it to him to materialise as some kind of television Demos-thenes. He can throw that apprehension away; if Mr Bush came over as the prisoner of his family self-righteous, peevish image, then Mr Clinton was no luckier in escaping from being the captive of his own slightly plastic one.

There is one lesson, though, that they could both equally learn from Ross Perot. If he emerged as the victor *ludorum*, it was for a very simple reason. Having nothing to lose, he had grasped the one central fact about the proceedings and exploited it mercilessly. The silted, structured nature of the debate art-form means that the wise candidate simply ignores it. That is what Mr Perot did on Sunday night, addressing his remarks not to his colleagues but rather direct to the viewers.

He did it with charm, without side, and with sufficient appeal to make him the hero of the evening. He will be back the next time all three candidates meet on Thursday, but there is just a hint from within the presidential commission on debates that he may not, after all, be back for the last confrontation in a week's time. If he is not, then the candidate who most successfully takes a leaf out of his book could yet turn that debate into the definitive event of this election.

### Lighting fires for Bush

ALTHOUGH George Bush remains far behind in the polls, Conservative Central Office was perfectly happy yesterday with its contribution to the President's appearance in the first of the big three television debates. Sir John Lacy, the veteran former Central Office director, and Mark Fullbrook, the new head of campaigning, are claiming credit for at least two of Bush's main rhetorical thrusts — namely challenging Clinton as unpatriotic and branding him as a high-spend, high-tax politician. Both tactics were used to good effect in the last general election against Neil Kinnock and denounced angrily by Labour as "dirty tricks".

Lacy and Fullbrook were invited by the Republicans earlier this summer to advise the Bush campaign on the lessons to be learnt from the Tory victory in April. Lacy, who has fought every general election since 1950, says: "The greatest similarity between the Republicans and the Conservatives was that they went into the campaign having had years in power but behind in the polls.

Tax and trust worked for us whatever the media may say. I still think they can work for Bush."

But with Bush still behind do the Tory evangelists think the Republicans should now switch tack? Not at all. "On the day that came to be known as Black Wednesday, eight days before polling, we had fallen seven points behind," Lacy says. "Far from changing anything we just drove the tax-and-trust message home harder. That is what George Bush should do."

The Tory advisers, however, do not believe that Bush can rely on Clinton going over the top as Kinnock did at the infamous Sheffield rally. "I fear that in America it would have been a great success," Lacy says. "If Kinnock had been running for president instead of prime minister, far from damaging him, Sheffield probably would have swept him to victory."

### Clinton cachet

MEANWHILE Oxford University is banking on a Democrat victory at the American polls next month — literally. If Bill Clinton secures the popular vote, the boy from Arkansas is understood to have promised his alma mater the benefit of both his name and campaign



## DIARY

### Is anyone there?

ANTI-terrorist squad officers picking through the debris of the car bomb blast in Marylebone last week thought they had struck lucky when they found a mobile telephone in the gutter only yards from the scene of the explosion.

Surprisingly the telephone was still working. Could it have been used by the bombers to keep in touch with their operational headquarters? The police pressed the recall button and were excited when it flashed up the last number dialled.

Scouting a quick success the officers promptly tracked down the address, which they hoped might identify the command behind the explosion which destroyed the car of Christopher Lennox-Boyd, cousin of the foreign office minister Mark Lennox-Boyd, who was dining with members of the exiled Yugoslav

royal family at the home of Lord Sudeley. Plain clothes officers swooped on a fashionable house in Chelsea the next morning. Fortunately, before they began battering down the door, it was opened by the elegant figure of Princess Katarina of Yugoslavia, the Queen's cousin, who had been a guest at the Sudeley party. The mobile phone, far from belonging to a terrorist, was owned by John Kennedy, a former Tory parliamentary candidate, who was at the same party. Kennedy had rung the princess just before he left to check what everyone was wearing for dinner. "And what is more they still haven't given me my phone back", he says.

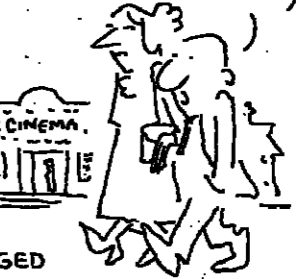
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### Sunset trap

AFTER much speculation Meryl Streep has agreed to play the lead role of Norma Desmond in Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical *Sunset Boulevard*, following in the steps of Gloria Swanson, who starred in the 1950 film production. Streep will take to the London stage for the first time next March in what could become Lloyd Webber's fifth concurrent London show. Norma Desmond is an ageing woman actress, waning in ability. De-

spite winning an Oscar nomination for playing her, Swanson found that her career went into similar decline from then on.

Sunset Boulevard... Wasn't that Gloria Swanson



GED

Charles Moore is clearly suited to his new role as editor of The Sunday Telegraph, a newspaper not known for its appeal to the working classes. Moore, who was due to take over as Washington bureau chief, clearly has better things to do with his weekends than shopping. At a Daily Telegraph conference last week, the editorial team was discussing a feature about people who use the huge DIY warehouse, B & Q. Moore looked up quizzically and asked: "What exactly is B & Q?"





## Appointment

## 00

**MARRIAGE**

Tied up: Nicola Godden, aged 11, tries out a fund-raising woggle on her Scout neckerchief in Battersea Park, south London. Nicola, from the 1st Crayford Scout group, Kent, is one of 650,000 Scouts who will take part in National Woggle Day on October 23, when the woggles will be sold for 50p in aid of a national Scout appeal

## SONAL COLI

Bromyard, Hereford and Worcester, has been elected president of the British Veterinary Association.

MN

## Latest wills

Mrs Hilda Elizabeth Jeau, of Tettenhall, West Midlands-ES33,344

FAX: 071 481 9313

The time is coming, says the Lord God, when I shall send famine on the land, not hunger for bread or thirst for

Uncle, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at Richmond Parish Church, Friday, October 16th at 11 a.m. Family flowers only.

**REAL-WORLD  
GRAPHICS LIMITED**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN  
that in Section 98 of the  
Company Act 1986 that a Meet-  
ing of the Creditors of the above-  
named Company will be held at  
11.30 a.m. on the 20 October  
1990 at 11.30 a.m. for the pur-  
poses mentioned in Sections 100  
of the said Act.  
The notice is to be used at the Meet-

cessfully. Christopher (Kim)  
Funeral Service at St Peter's  
Church, Upper Wolvercote,  
Oxford, on Friday October  
16th at 12.15 pm. Family  
flowers only but donations  
please for The Park

**WEN** - On October. 7th.  
peacefully in his sleep in  
hospital. Maldwyn Tudor.

**EYRE** - On October 9th,  
legically, Henry, beloved  
son of Charlie and Melanie.

**OBERT** - On Friday October 9th. Ruby Margaret Alexandra, aged 94, for nearly 70 years the much loved wife of the late Colonel

MAIR  
1988  
ever;  
husb  
on 6  
Lind

aged 63. Much loved Priest,  
husband and father. Funeral  
service at St. Augustine's  
Church, Bethesda, on Friday  
October 16th at 12 noon.  
May he rest in peace. Family  
members only, donations if

and c/o Munro's F/D. 31  
Windsor Road, Bexhill-on-  
sea.

**HARDSON** - On  
September 10th 1992,  
carefully in Alton. Lady

**Private**  
**Immigration in Aldershot.**  
**INSON** - On October  
 th. William Leggat (Robin)  
 Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

**Abersham Crematorium**  
Monday October 19th at  
10.30 am. By his request no  
flowers.

**PHRED - On October**

devoted husband, father and grandfather. Funeral at John's Church, Clipping Street, on Thursday October 14th at 2.30 pm. Family and friends only. Donations may be sent to the North London Hospice.

— *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: 5.00pm day prior**  
**PERSONAL 5.30pm 2 days prior.**  
Have a major credit card ready when placing your  
as prepayment is required.  
**We accept**  
**ACCESS, AMEX, DINERS and VISA.**

[illegible]







■ The British car industry could recover next year and the year after. Companies cars which have been kept for longer than usual will finally be replaced with new ones

BRITAIN'S car firms could mount an export-led recovery next year to establish the nation as one of Europe's big motor manufacturers.

A report for Charterhouse Bank blows away some of the gloom hanging over a demoralised motor industry hit by plummeting sales, redundancies and short-time working. The report predicts a slight recovery in 1992 to 1.77 million cars, up from the 1.55 million expected this year, the worst performance for a decade.

below 50 per cent as Japanese makers start to replace over-ripe products with new cars built in UK "transplant" factories. At the same time, the Japanese transplants founded by Honda, Toyota and Nissan will drive UK production towards annual output of 1.7 million cars from the 1.25 million expected this year.

Charterhouse says the Japanese will account for almost a third of the UK market, with Volkswagen and Rover almost standing still. The contribution from the transplants, coupled

Charterhouse then expects sales to peak in 1994 at 2.1 million, mainly driven by sales to companies who have kept their fleet cars longer than usual in a four-year replacement cycle because of the recession. From the transplants dropped with more exports aided by the devaluation of sterling, could push overseas sales towards 900,000 cars a year or 40 per cent of total output compared with the current level of about 32 per cent.

Business sales are likely to fall 40 per cent from the 1985 peak to 780,000 this year but could hit 1.2 million in 1994, said James Morrell, the report's author. By 1997, the UK market will have stabilised at 1.89 million sales annually and apart from domestic growth exports will improve and improve.

Charterhouse predicts imports, currently about 55 per cent of all sales, could fall to 400,000 down on last year.

below 50 per cent as Japanese makers start to replace overseas product with new cars built in UK "transplant" factories. At the same time, the Japanese transplants founded by Honda, Toyota and Nissan will drive UK production towards annual output of 1.7 million cars from the 1.5 million expected in 1985. Furthermore, says the Japanese, will account for almost all of the rise as output from Ford, Vauxhall and Rover almost stands still. The contribution from the transplants, coupled with more exports aided by the devaluation of sterling, could push overseas sales year on year to 600,000 cars a year to 100,000 in 1985. Output compared with the current level of about 32,000 per cent.

With no unforeseen and substantial changes to European markets, Charterhouse predicts UK output could reach 1.9 million cars a year by the year 2000, the highest level since 1972. But manufacturers remain gloomy that the uncertainty in the British economy may not bring a revival in 1993. Sales are falling this year from a predicted 1.75 million to 1.55 million, 400,000 down on last year.

A black and white photograph of Peter Thiel, a man in a suit and tie, smiling and holding a small circular object with the word 'PETER' on it. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a fence and some foliage.

**Mine host: John Brackenbury behind the bar at the Tap & Spile pub, Heathrow**

## Pubmaster pulls more pints

**By PHILIP PANGALOS**

**JOHN Brackenbury**, the chairman of Pubmaster, Brent Walker's fast-growing public house retailing division, believes the wide variety of traditional ales served by the group's Tap & Spile operation will play a key role in future expansion.

Pubmaster has taken advantage of opportunities that have come its way as the November deadline approaches for complying with the government's Beer Orders, requiring brewers to free of tie half the number of pubs owned above a ceiling of 2,000. The independent pub

operator has more than doubled the size of its national estate to 1,983 pubs in less than a year, making Pubmaster Britain's largest independent pub retailer. Mr Brackenbury does not intend to stop there. He has optimistic plans to expand the number of Pubmaster's outlets, with a target of 3,500 pubs by the end of 1993.

**Tap & Spile.** Pubmaster's managed house brand, is very much a traditional ale house serving a wide variety of ales on hand pumps, ranging from well-known brands to the more exotically-named

**Daleside's Old Legover.** Willie Warmer and Santas Ruin. The ales at the Tap & Spile houses are rotated, with some pubs boasting as many as 400 different ales served at one time or another.

The Tap & Spile operation presently consists of 23 public houses — the latest pub was opened in Sheffield last Thursday. Two more pubs will be opened this week, one in Ipswich tomorrow and one in Bury on Friday, and there are plans to expand further, with about 40 Tap & Spile pubs anticipated by the end of next year.

**THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE**

[illegible]



# TEMPUS

Given the gloom that Lucas admits is deepening elsewhere

**NORMAN** Lamont may have felt the need for a few stiff drinks after the mauling he received at yesterday's Treasury select committee meeting. He is known to be a tippler of Highland Park, one of Highland Distilleries' single malt brands. The company is not holding its breath for any fiscal largesse in the Budget, however, for all its privileged access to the cocktail cabinet at

Highland gold: John Goodwin, left, and Brian Ivory

**Number 11.** It could do with the help. Domestic scotch whisky sales are down 11 per cent, although Highland, of which John Goodwin is chairman and Brian Ivory is managing director, is gaining market share in the UK. The real opportunity for Highland, and its main brand, The Famous Grouse, lies in the export markets. The company is

well placed for growth because of its relatively small international market share and its access to the distribution networks of Remy Cointreau, the parent company of which 25 per cent is owned by Highland. Exports were up almost 30 per cent by value to £25.5 million in the year to end-August, with particularly strong growth being seen in the

## Tay Homes

**THERE** cannot be many companies that can justifiably point to a 26 per cent drop in profits as an excellent achievement. But Tay Homes is celebrating a pre-tax profits fall to £6.14 million from £8.26 million in the year to end-June with a 13 per cent hike in the final dividend to 4.65p, giving 5.85p (5.3p) for the year.

The reason for the self-congratulation is that despite the recession Tay sold a record

Sales rose to £76.2 million (£70.6 million), despite a fall in the average selling price to £64,900 from £74,300. This follows deliberate attempts to target lower-priced housing and focus on urban renewal schemes. House sales were strongest in Yorkshire and the North West, with the Midlands looking up. In Scotland, Tay hopes to make up for a poor show by building cheaper housing. Gearing was 47 per cent (66 per cent), but jumps to 99 per cent if land premiums are included.

Analysts are looking for current profits of about £6.5 million, which would put the shares on an undemanding forward p/e multiple of 7.3. While this is cheap when compared to competitors and Tay has good scope for volume growth, there are no clear signs of short-term recovery.

losers nine to four on a million 43 million shares.

Jack Conlon, managing director at Rothschild Inc. said, "In a holiday session, typically the bias tends to be to the buy side."

The Dow Jones industrial average stood at 3,166.57 compared with an earlier session best of 3,173.60. In the broad market, winners topped

Nikkei average was up 242.23 points, or 1.42 per cent, to 17,302.01, with 150 million shares traded. (Reuters)

[illegible]

## STOCK MARKET

Sir John Quinton,  
we pay you £412,000 p.a.  
to look after our concerns.  
So why are we waiting...?

We are more than 200 shareholders in Barclays Plc determined to meet our Board about our ever-growing concerns (The Times 9.10.92 page7) Meanwhile, Barclays' lawyers are "taking instructions" about the Board's "policy (if any)... in relation to meetings with shareholders" !!!

Tel: 071•437 1123

In August, Don McCrickard, the chief executive, resigned. His departure was reckoned to have been prompted by pressure from non-executive directors and institutions worried by the losses at Hill Samuel and demanding its disposal.

TSB paid £777 million for Hill Samuel at the top of the market bubble in 1987 — just weeks before the stock market crash. Its sale now would only raise a fraction of the original consideration, but would enable Peter Ellwood, chief executive, to concentrate on the rest of the business.

Share prices elsewhere spent most of the session marking time after recovering an early fall. But the market finished on a high note.

The Chancellor's defence of his handling of the sterling crisis before the Commons Treasury committee made little impact. The FT-SE 100 index closed near its best of the day, with a rise of 16.0 at 2,557.2 in thin trading which saw a meagre 305 million shares change hands. Ranks Hovis McDougall held steady at 242½ with the market now

The graph displays two data series over a 12-month period from October to October. The y-axis represents the index value, ranging from 60 to 200. The 'FT all-share index (rebased)' is shown as a thin line, and the 'Share price' is shown as a thick line. Both indices show a similar pattern: a decline from October to February, a recovery to a peak in May, followed by a steady decline through July, a sharp drop in late August/early September, and a subsequent recovery by October.

Month	FT all-share index (rebased)	Share price
Oct	185	185
Nov	175	175
Dec	165	165
Jan	155	155
Feb	145	145
Mar	155	155
Apr	175	175
May	195	195
Jun	185	185
Jul	165	165
Aug	145	145
Sep	105	105
Oct	115	115

**GEORGE WIMPEY:  
LOSS FORECAST  
INCREASED**

pinning its hopes on a higher offer from Hanson, 2p firmer at 215p. But also in the food sector, Daley climbed 12p to

Midland Electricity jumped 10p to 422p with the stockbroker, UBS Phillips & Drew, rating the shares a buy.

announced plans for a major restructuring which includes the loss of a further 4,000 jobs, provisions totalling £88.4 million and the disposal of businesses worth an estimated £100 million.

Vickers fell 6p to 84p on confirmation that Kuwait had awarded General Dynamics of America a \$1-billion contract to supply 236 A1-M1 Abrams tanks, after beating off stiff competition from Vickers and its Challenger.

Trafalgar House, the shipping engineering and construction, firmed 1p to 86½p, and the A, a similar amount to 83½p, following the failure of Hong Kong Land's tender offer.

MICHAEL CLARK

RECENT ISSUES		
Chubb Security	184	-2
European Smaller Co's	82	+1
-db- Smaller Co's Wts	20	+1
Shirescot	96	...
Shirescot Warrants	19	...
Tepnel Diagnostics (120)	160	-2

RIGHTS ISSUES		
Ariva Petroleum n/p (27)	2	-4
FTI Group n/p (12)	2	...

<b>RISES:</b>				
Jardine Strat	177p	(+14p)	Boats	464p (+8p)
Dalgely	436p	(+12p)	De La Rue	627p (+8p)
Kwik Save	639p	(+19p)	<b>FALLS:</b>	
Takaco Chem	330p	(+16p)	Standard Chart	490p (+13p)
Jardine Meth	404p	(+15p)	Sappi	467p (+30p)
Linton Park	140p	(+30p)	Bass	549p (+14p)
MB-Caradon	258p	(+12p)	Gramp Met	370p (+10p)
Pearson	350p	(+11p)	SKF 'B'	775p (+12½p)
BAA	732p	(+11p)	TI	238p (+11p)
Stage Group	412p	(+8p)	Wellcome	863p (+9p)
AB Food	307p	(+8p)	Rank Org	507p (+14p)
Int'l Road	437p	(+8p)		

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FT-SE VOLUMES			
ABBY Nasl	1,300	Carlson Com	879
Aditya Nigam	5,000	Cosmos Vesta	456
Angliam V	345	Cm Union	784
Anglil Gp	1,200	Couranalis	1,300
Avgd Wigs	1,300	De La Rue	101
BAA	4,680	East China C	284
BAT Inds	1,100	Enteryl Oil	401
BET	2,700	Fisons	561
BHC	375	Forre	528
BDC	775	GRE	3,100
BT	3,200	GUS & C	524
BT	2,500	Genc Acc	353
BTR	1,100	Genc Elec	3,500
Bk of Scot	487	Glaxo	2,100
Burdays	2,400	Grampian	1,000
Blue Bird	706	Grand Met	5,000
Bure	1,700	Guinness	1,900
Boots	327	Hanson	2,400
Bower	161	HSBC	2,100
BPI	1,200	ICI	255
BPI Gs	7,800	Inchape	715
Bri Steel	3,800	Kingfisher	777
Burbach Cent	33	Kovak Sea	560
Burns	2,100	LASMO	2,600
Bush Wire	1,300	Ladbroke	636
Cashdry	1,200	Land Sea	279
		Legat & Gn	717
		Lloyds Bk	2,000
		MBC Cardin	254
		Marke Spr	797
		NITC	124
		Nbk Bk	2,700
		Nat Power	2,000
		Nth Wg W	319
		Nidren Inds	4,100
		P & S	807
		Power Gen	190
		Prudential	2,000
		RTZ	1,200
		Reckitt Org	780
		Reddie Cn	471
		Redland	743
		Reed Int'l	2,400
		Reid	244
		Reuters	387
		Roli Royce	365
		Rothmans	101
		Sgt Int Sec	3,600
		Sitit Group	706
		Scott & New	611
		Scott A	418
		Scott Power	2,600
		Seas	3,700
		Stern Trent	303
		Shelf Trans	423
		Silbe	264
		Smith Bch	1,300
		Smith Bk	792
		Smith Wf	636
		Sony Elec	1,400
		Sun Airline	736
		Ti Gp	941
		TSB	2,400
		Tesco & Ayle	780
		Thames W	325
		Thorn Emi	263
		Thornomi	572
		Thorn P	244
		Unit Bk	1,300
		Vodafone	1,000
		Wellcome	1,000
		Widnes W	210
		Wilms Ind	433

MAJOR INDICES			
<b>New York (midday):</b>			
Dow Jones	3 (65.76 +29.18)		
S&P Composite	406.02 (+3.36)		
<b>Tokyo:</b>			
Nikkei Avg	17302.01 (+242.23)		
<b>Hong Kong:</b>			
Hang Seng	5725.57 (+128.86)		
<b>Amsterdam:</b>			
CBS Tendency	107.5 (+0.3)		
<b>Sydney: AO</b>			
	1462.9 (+3.3)		
<b>Frankfurt:</b>			
DAX	1432.54 (+7.12)		
<b>FTSE Euro 100:</b>			
	984.55 (+2.53)		
<b>Brussels:</b>			
General	5351.45 (+17.74)		
<b>Paris CAC:</b>			
	4446.36 (+8.33)		
<b>Zurich: S&amp;K Gen</b>			
	415.3 (+0.4)		
<b>London:</b>			
FT A-All Share	1207.77 (+6.77)		
FT 500	1351.41 (+7.16)		
FT Gold Mines	71.7 (+5.1)		
FT Fixed Interest	103.95 (+0.22)		
FT Gov Secs	89.70 (+0.08)		
Bargains	17739		
SEAQ Volume	305.6m		
USM (Datastrm)	111.06 (+0.29)		
TRADITIONAL OPTIONS			
First Dealings September 28	Las Dealings October 9	Last Declaration December 30	For Settlement January 11

Call options were taken out on 12/10/92: ASDA, Cain Energy, Mirror Group, Sainsbury, Truflager House.

LONDON FINANCIAL SERVICES						
	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FTSE 100	Dec 92	2568.0	2615.0	2561.0	2603.0	7205
Previous open interest: 44762	Mar 93				2636.0	
Three Month Sterling	Dec 92	91.88	91.98	91.86	91.89	15937
Previous open interest: 226071	Mar 93	92.46	92.54	92.40	92.43	2712
Three Month Eurodollar	Dec 92	92.58	92.63	92.57	92.58	1777
Previous open interest: 23938	Mar 93	96.66	96.73	96.70	96.71	815
Three Month Euro DM	Dec 92	91.75	91.78	91.66	91.69	12729
Previous open interest: 356245	Mar 93	92.47	92.49	92.38	92.40	6660
US Treasury Bond	Dec 92	103.20	103.21	103.14	103.21	208
Previous open interest: 15911	Mar 93				103.14	
Long Gilt	Dec 92	96.21	96.26	96.02	96.08	8900
Previous open interest: 57072	Mar 93				96.02	
Japanese Govt Bond	Dec 92	106.10	106.18	106.09	106.11	427
Previous open interest: 170761	Mar 93				105.37	
German Govt Bond	Dec 92	91.16	91.18	90.97	90.76	39665
Previous open interest: 170761	Mar 93	91.24	91.24	91.11	91.02	79
Three month Euro	Dec 92	90.20	90.21	90.11	90.11	578
Previous open interest: 10936	Mar 93	90.90	90.91	90.82	90.82	142
Swiss Franc	Dec 92	93.71	93.73	93.47	93.52	5497
Previous open interest: 41951	Mar 93	94.07	94.07	93.87	93.87	744
Italian Govt Bond	Dec 92	88.45	88.65	87.92	88.14	5572
Previous open interest: 27373	Mar 93	88.97	88.97	88.90	88.64	2

COMMODITIES

MONEY MARKETS				
Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 82.8 (day's spot 82.4-82.8)				
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				
Mkt Rates for Oct 12	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.7957-2.8258	2.8169-2.8271	par-1/2c	par-1/2c
Bombay	1.6815-1.6843	1.6815-1.6843	21 1/2-1/2c	7 1/2-1/2c
Copenhagen	9.6130-9.7090	9.6350-9.7090	21 1/2-1/2c	7 1/2-1/2c
Frankfurt	0.9446-0.9512	0.9454-0.9487	38-9/10c	148-20/10c
Hong Kong	2.4892-2.5120	2.4900-2.5120	22 1/2-1/2c	8 1/2-1/2c
London	121.25-123.90	122.20-123.20	22 1/2-1/2c	105-101/10c
Lyons	176.20-178.50	176.20-178.50	45-15/10c	225-20/10c
Milan	218.10-225.00	220.00-224.00	10-14c	58-27/10c
Montreal	2.1112-2.1282	2.1156-2.1178	0.35-0.25c	0.48-0.15pc
New York	1.6995-1.7055	1.7000-1.7050	0.87-0.85c	2.28-0.25c
Osaka	10.110-10.2340	10.100-10.2340	11-1/2c	6-11/16c
Paris	8.4440-8.5330	8.4210-8.5330	12-1/2c	5-1/2c
San Francisco	0.6340-0.6360	0.6340-0.6360	14-1/2c	5-1/2c
Tokyo	204.6-206.25	205.95-206.25	1 1/2pc	21 1/2-8/10c
Zurich	2.059-2.075	2.061-2.075	14-1/2c	5-1/2c
Source: Etele	2.0599-2.0599	2.2004-2.2243	1 1/2pc	14-1/2c
			Premium + pr. Discount = dc	
DOLLAR SPOT RATES				
Argentina peso	1.6815-1.6843	Australia	1.3977-1.3986	
Australian dollar	2.3605-2.3636	Austria	10.10-10.13	
Belgian franc	36.20-36.30	Belgium (cont.)	30.20-30.24	
Brazil cruzeiro	1158.5-1159.8			

	Cattle				Pigs				Cattle				Pigs			
	Series	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Series	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
ADG 1900	160	137	50	37	11	30	47	BAA	-700	42	61	79	14	26	32	
ADG 1950	650	37	17	28	49	60	65	F732A	116	38	52	51	41	51	56	
ADG 2000	100	10	10	10	10	10	10	F732B	116	38	52	51	41	51	56	
ADG 2050	40	4	5	5	7	5	4	F740	850	57	57	37	32	45	42	
ADG 2100	350	14	31	41	16	36	36	F740B	350	31	46	48	35	45	25	
ADG 2150	350	14	31	41	16	36	36	BTR	350	31	46	48	35	45	25	
ADG 2200	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br Angus	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2250	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br Hereford	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2300	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br York	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2350	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2400	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2450	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2500	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2550	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2600	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2650	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2700	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2750	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2800	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2850	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2900	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 2950	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3000	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3050	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3100	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3150	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3200	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3250	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3300	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3350	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3400	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3450	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3500	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3550	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3600	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3650	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3700	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3750	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3800	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3850	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3900	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 3950	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4000	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4050	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4100	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4150	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4200	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4250	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4300	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4350	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4400	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4450	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4500	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4550	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4600	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4650	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4700	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4750	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4800	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4850	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4900	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 4950	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5000	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5050	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5100	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5150	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5200	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5250	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5300	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5350	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5400	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5450	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5500	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5550	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5600	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5650	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5700	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5750	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5800	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5850	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5900	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 5950	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6000	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6050	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6100	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6150	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6200	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6250	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6300	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6350	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6400	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6450	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6500	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6550	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6600	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6650	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6700	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6750	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35	37	14	23	22	
ADG 6800	420	44	53	64	40	10	17	Br-Back	130	24	35					

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ended narrowly mixed  
we may be temporarily  
more open as the  
futures closed seven to  
falling to breach a key

**ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm):** Prices managed to  
remain most of the late Friday gains, but the  
market weakened for discounts

#### CRUDE OILS (Bahrain FOB)

Brent Physical		20.80	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Oct)		20.80	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Nov)		20.80	-0.05
W Tense Intermediate (Nov)		22.25	-
W Tense Intermediate (Dec)		22.25	n/c

#### GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

##### WHEAT (Class 10)

Nov	123.65
Dec	123.65
Jan	123.65
May	126.25
Jun	137.00
Volume:	230

#### PRODUCTS (S&W)

Spot C&W NW Europe (barges delivery)		
Premium Gas. 1.5	11¢: 222 (n/a)	Offer: 222 (-1)
Gasoil E&C	201	202 (n/a)
Non EEC 1H Nov	202	202 (n/a)
Non EEC 1H Dec	204 (-)	205 (-)
3.5 Post Oil	191 (n/a)	102 (n/a)
Naphtha	150 (n/a)	195 (n/a)

##### BARLEY (Class 10)

Nov	122.90
Dec	122.90
Jan	128.95
May	128.95
Sep	101.00
Volume:	62

#### ICE FUTURES

GNI Ld		
GAS OIL		
Oct	n/a	Jan 200.00-7.75
Nov	198.25-98.50	Feb 196.00-96.25
Dec	200.75-01.00	Mar 186.00-86.25
		Vol: 29764

#### BRENT (6.00pm)

Nov	20.84-20.85	Feb 20.46 SILR
Dec	20.84-20.85	Mar 20.46 SILR
Jan	20.77-20.79	Vol 18308

#### UNLEADED GASOLINE

Oct	n/a	Jan 205.50-06.50
Nov	211.00-12.50	Feb 210.00 SILR
Dec	211.00-13.50	Vol 287

#### BIFLEX

##### GNI Ld (\$/0/0)

Oct 92	High: 1087	Low: 1085	Oct: 1086
Nov 92	1140	1135	1136
Dec 92	1140	1135	1135
Jan 93	1185	1181	1177
Vol 63 lots	open	3279	Index 1039 v1

#### LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Copper (Cable)				
Oct: 1325.0-1326.0	End: 1357.0-1357.5	Vol: 155712		
Nov: 1320.0-1321.0	333.00-333.50	94700		
Dec: 1170.0-1177.0	1180.0-1189.0	307950		
Jan: 1140.0-1141.0	1141.0-1142.0	307950		
Feb: 1120.0-1121.0	1121.0-1122.0	307950		
Mar: 1100.0-1101.0	1101.0-1102.0	307950		
Apr: 1080.0-1081.0	1081.0-1082.0	307950		
May: 1060.0-1061.0	1061.0-1062.0	307950		
Jun: 1040.0-1041.0	1041.0-1042.0	307950		
Jul: 1020.0-1021.0	1021.0-1022.0	307950		
Aug: 1000.0-1001.0	1001.0-1002.0	307950		
Sep: 980.0-981.0	981.0-982.0	307950		
Oct: 960.0-961.0	961.0-962.0	307950		
Nov: 940.0-941.0	941.0-942.0	307950		
Dec: 920.0-921.0	921.0-922.0	307950		
Jan: 900.0-901.0	901.0-902.0	307950		
Feb: 880				

[illegible]

## Of double prongs and bootstraps

Few sectors have been hit harder than engineering during the recession and in theory it stands to gain a great deal from the devaluation that took Britain out of the ERM. But there were few signs of glee evident yesterday when the Engineering Employers' Federation delivered its latest half-year survey, even though this showed that recovery is at last under way. On the contrary, EEF's director-general Neil Johnson was behaving as if his members, natural supporters of the government through thick and thin, had finally run out of patience. In chiding the government for its refusal to deliver a so-called industrial strategy, Mr Johnson is touching a raw nerve. Carnage in the industry has been extreme and casualties heavy. But for all his fine words about delivering in six weeks the strategy which the government has failed to produce in six months, Mr Johnson might just as well save his breath. His self-styled two-pronged programme for regenerating Britain's industrial base almost certainly involves costs far beyond what is acceptable at this late stage in an extremely tough public spending round.

The EEF should know well that John Major and Norman Lamont are not ardent believers in a two-pronged approach to solving the nation's difficulties or anything else which can be confused with Labour's interventionist plans for recovery. The EEF should instead think about the bootstrap approach to self-help which involves making the most of the chances created through our exit from ERM and the devaluation which followed.

The EEF admits that even before the devaluation of mid-September its prices relative to German competition were fine, though not so keen against US and Japanese manufacturers. Since then, the picture has brightened substantially. British engineering export prices are now at the most competitive for four years and perhaps as good as at any time since the late 1970s. This is the stuff of which recovery is made.

If the EEF expects more, then it should look back into its archives to the 1967, and other, devaluations to confirm the potency of the stimulus which can arise, other things being equal. The 14 per cent devaluation against the dollar of November 1967 helped to transform the net income of commercial and industrial companies, which had immediately before this been falling at 10 per cent per year. Within a few months, it was growing by 20 per cent a year and the pace eventually became even faster. The parallels with 1992 may not be exact but there is great scope for rebuilding margins and winning new exports.

## Vickers blow

Current scoreline in the latest Middle East battle reads Dick Cheney 1, Malcolm Rifkind 0. Vickers minus one billion. Analysts had high hopes that the visit paid by Mr Rifkind to the Middle East a few weeks ago would yield results for British defence contractors. Vickers' loss of a £1 billion order for its Challenger 2 tank so soon afterwards is a double surprise. Mr Cheney, US defence secretary, is said to have been most aggressive in support of General Dynamics, Vickers' American rival for the tank order. But it is impossible to tell how much the tank order was partly a debt of honour in exchange for US support in the Gulf war. For Vickers, the outlook must look daunting. The Kuwait decision to buy US equipment will not help Vickers to win orders from Abu Dhabi, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Vickers shares cannot help but reflect the problems of cash-hungry Rolls-Royce deep in the doldrums, queries over military orders and a cash outflow probably exceeding £125 million in the past couple of years.

**Graham Searjeant says that a fresh campaign to deepen ownership of shares must persuade companies to woo the individual investor**

WHEN Sir Peter Thompson and Geoffrey Maddrell finally launch the ProShare Association tomorrow, to promote direct investment in shares by individuals, they risk meeting sympathetic establishment apathy.

Nearly all shades of respectable opinion are, at least in theory, in favour of more people owning more shares in more companies. In the run-up to the general election, even the Labour party welcomed the formation of the Share Ownership Movement, the officially-supported umbrella body led by Sir Peter and run by Mr Maddrell. Like money supply targets or the nuclear deterrent, however, ProShare's aims ranked much higher on the Eighties agenda of priorities than today's.

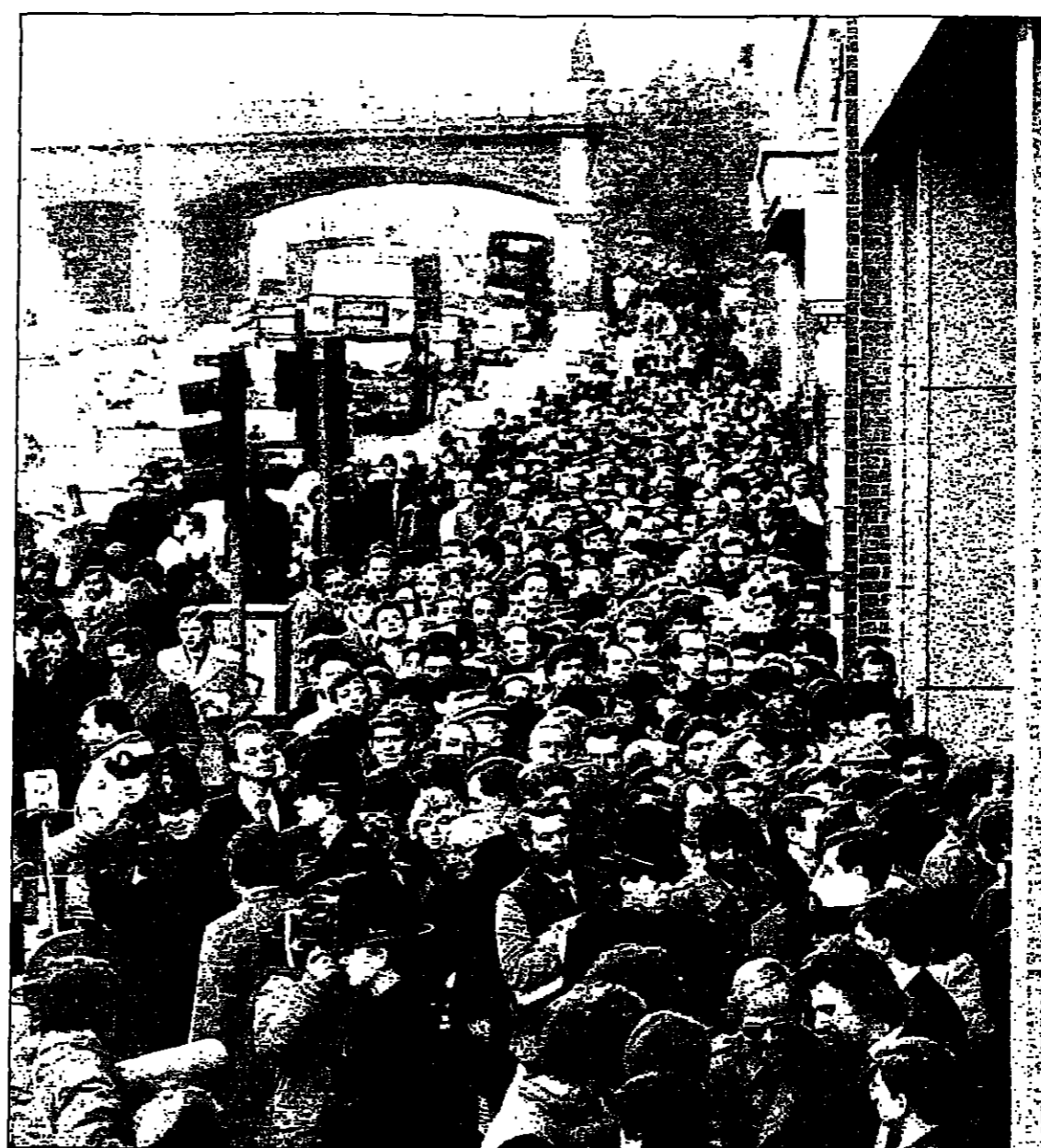
If the drive to deepen share ownership is to be more than a gesture, ProShare will have to convince companies that it is their self-interest to woo the private investor in much larger numbers. As a lobby for investors, it will also, occasionally, have to upset some of its own begetters: The London Stock Exchange, the DTI, 19 quoted companies and the Bradford and Bingley Building Society.

In the early days of the Thatcher government, there was a zealous philosophical drive behind wider share ownership and employee share ownership. Together, they were to bridge the divide between wage and profit, identify millions with the well-being of companies and thereby change the way people thought about private sector wealth creation. When this priority met the practical need to find a market for shares in BT and later utility privatisations, mass share-owning democracy was born.

The ranks of individual shareholders swelled from about three million in 1979 to more than 11 million at the 1991 peak. Many of the affluent young had to cash in such assets to maintain mortgages or repay debt over the past two years, but there are still more than three times as many shareholders as 13 years ago.

Mass share ownership may prove, however, to have been a seed planted on stony ground. Shareholding grew fast but failed to develop. A survey last year found that three quarters of shareholders held only one or two shares, overwhelmingly small packets of privatised companies bought in high-profile government sales. Only one in seven had bought a quoted share through the stock market.

The Treasury's belated attempt to accustom more people to buying and selling "second-hand" shares, by funneling the latest privatisations through share shops, has not borne much fruit. The decline in the importance of private investors in



Rush of the eighties: People queuing in London in 1985 to hand in Laura Ashley share applications

financing industry has continued. In 1987, individuals controlled two thirds of company shares. That fell to 28 per cent by 1991, and kept sliding to 21 per cent in 1989 and only 20 per cent at the last count.

The juggernaut of collective investment schemes seems only to have been slowed temporarily by the privatisation programme. Personal equity plans, designed to build direct relationships between investors and companies, were soon taken over by professionals, usually losing on the way that intended direct contact through annual reports and shareholder meetings. Market forces seem against small shareholders. To save money, firms have even taken to sending them patronising and virtually useless abbreviated accounts.

ProShare aims to reverse the declining role of private investors by growing roots to mass share ownership. It will have to adopt a new approach to do that, since less support may be forthcoming from two of its strongest original allies.

Government priorities have changed. Ministers may still feel it politically convenient to woo the

masses to buy remaining minority stakes in BT, National Power and PowerGen. There are few other state industries suitable for popular public flotations, unless there is a change of policy over the Post Office. Instead, the Treasury will need to sell vast amounts of government debt over the next two or three years.

Serling's removal from the ERM will not encourage potential foreign buyers, leaving a strong incentive to devise long-term investments and tax breaks to milk the private investor, in ways that do not compete head-on with the building societies.

As the government's practical financial needs have changed, so has its philosophy. The enterprise culture and the share-owning democracy have given way to John Major's Citizen's Charter. This change shows most clearly in the treatment of privatised utilities, where shareholders' interests rapidly lost any importance as a constituency for politicians, even though the vast majority of the six million new shareholders hold only utility shares.

Utilities have suffered from regulatory uncertainty, though they have

survived the recession well. Aside from the first-day profits, investors may well have been better off putting their money into unit trusts. If ProShare is to be taken seriously, Mr Maddrell might need to take a stronger line on the treatment of utilities than anything else.

He has already provoked the scarcely-concealed ire of the Stock Exchange for daring to question whether Taurus, the Exchange's awaited electronic stock settlement system, is good for private investors. He says the mechanics that replace share certificates are too complicated; the Exchange says improvements already made or envisaged should overcome that.

This is a critical argument. Unless Taurus enables much cheaper and more user-friendly systems for dealing in small parcels of shares to develop, people who bought privatisation issues will not extend their interest into trading on the market. Investments of £100 a time, which resulted from some privatisations, are unlikely to be economic under any

system. Meanwhile, much of the securities industry has lost interest in the private investor as fast as it has lost interest in trading shares in all but the top few hundred companies. Individuals are still involved in 70 per cent of all stock market equity transactions and private client brokers still do steadily trade for the wealthy. When it comes to the more modest investor, overheads get in the way. There are exceptions. The Sharelink no-frills service, has found that its private clients often take a contrary view to the institutional herd. On a larger scale, that could boost market liquidity, especially in smaller stocks, and reduce the suffocating dominance in price-setting of over-cautious marketmakers.

If Taurus works, securities houses, stockbrokers, banks and building societies might again see the modest private investor as a customer worth courting, if not in penny packets then perhaps in the sort of lots implied by the £3,000 single company personal equity plan. If direct equity investment by the millions is to grow strong roots, however, it will probably be in share holding rather than share dealing.

The ProShare Association is intended to be a sort of self-financing club, offering information to private investors and creating a two-way process to legitimise its lobbying activities. However, ProShare will find that a £1 million budget cannot compete with unit trust and insurance companies. Only if it can be used to mobilise the resources of companies will it make much impact.

Many big companies regard their small shareholders as a contemptible nuisance and think themselves lucky not to have the ridiculously big share registers foisted on some smaller privatised groups. Others already realise their potential value. Loyal private shareholders are a boon for any decently-run company suffering temporary trading difficulties or finding itself on the end of a takeover bid, but can play a much greater role.

A fan club of shareholders can be an army of unpaid promoters, marketers and customers. Private shareholders can be a steady source of finance, responding more than institutions to the alternative of dividends.

Many more companies could build their capital steadily by regular distribution of warrants. Companies can do much more than they think to improve their share rating by altering subtly the balance of supply and demand on the Stock Exchange. Schemes to attract a regular inflow of private investors through cheap dealing, single company PEPs and employee savings schemes could, for instance, be tied to a modest programme of buying shares in, to provide a steady flow of buy orders.

Relatively few companies treat private shareholders as part of the company by offering discounts on products, social events and group benefits. Far fewer publicise benefits effectively. Many complain, however, about being at the mercy of a few people in the City.

If companies want private shareholders, they need to take serious steps to attract them. If they do not, the efforts of ProShare will ultimately be a waste of time.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### The unacceptable face of speculation

From Mr Phillip Watters

Sir, It is apparent that large sections of our economy, both in the financial and industrial sector, play the money markets to their best advantage. Such activity by these speculators serves no other purpose than their own personal gain.

While I have no objection to any company looking to maximise its profits as best it can in the interest of the shareholders, when such activity has an adverse effect on the rest of the country by virtue of rendering its currency unstable, then is it not time to say this is the unacceptable face of "capitalism".

I suggest a prohibitive tax upon such speculative profits

being imposed by the governments of all the major currencies.

There would obviously have to be some mechanism for distinguishing between the normal trading exchanges in currency and pure speculation, but doubtless the bureaucrats in Brussels who in their infinite wisdom have been capable of devising the common agricultural policy could come up with some acceptable mechanism.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILLIP WATTERS,  
Ashcroft,  
Walford Road,  
Ross-on-Wye,  
Herefordshire.

### Disappointment over pension law paper directed at professionals

From Mr T. G. Campion

Sir, Following the Commons select committee's report on the Maxwell affair, the government has set up a committee under the chairmanship of Professor Roy Goode to review the framework and law relating to occupational pensions schemes.

This committee has now issued a consultative document, which is available on request to those interested, inviting individuals and organisations to submit written evidence, not later than December 15, 1992.

How disappointing on reading this paper to find that it appears to be directed at the professionals who make their living from the pension industry.

The vast majority of members of these schemes will have difficulty in understanding the document, in absorbing the detail and formulating answers to the questions in part 111. These members, who have looked to governments to introduce legislation to safeguard their retirement income, will again wonder if their voice will be heard.

Perhaps this is only to be expected given the make-up of the committee, all professionals with no representatives from the pensioner organisations or trade unions, who are in touch with the needs and expectations of their members.

After being closely involved with these issues, and in High Court action, it would appear that we may again be presented with similar conclusions to those of the Occupational Pensions Board, in its report, *Protecting Pensions 1988*; the professional view, "no case for reform". They were wrong, as the Imperial and Maxwell cases proved.

With the excellent report of

the Field committee, and the setting up of the Law Review committee, members of these schemes, who have contributed from their pay on a compulsory basis, had high hopes that at last their expectations of a secure retirement

income would be assured. Are they again to be disappointed? Yours faithfully,  
T. G. CAMPION,  
117 Mansfield Road,  
Selston,  
Nottinghamshire.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Goldman looks to defend RHM

GOLDMAN Sachs may still be bidding overtly to be part of the RHM defence team against Hanson, but Stanley Metcalfe, RHM chairman, is understood to be under pressure from Morgan Grenfell, his existing merchant bank, to resist any urge to appoint the American firm. Metcalfe admits that he took a call from Goldman last week, on the grounds that it successfully defended ICI against Hanson, but Goldman's aggressive tactics have not, it seems, won admiration at Morgan Grenfell. Goldman employed Investigative Group Inc to uncover material on the Hanson team, and again during its defence of Racal, prompting Williams Holdings, the bidder, to complain of a "dirty tricks" campaign. More specifically, Williams claimed that the bins of its senior executives had been over-turned by IGI. Morgan Grenfell was the adviser to Williams Holdings and sources at the bank admit that it has let Metcalfe know it would not be happy to work on a "dirty" defence alongside Goldman. If Metcalfe does appoint Goldman as a co-adviser, the man certain to head up the Goldman team is John Thornton, managing director of the bank's UK arm and known as "the rotweiler".

### Miller's crossing

TIM Miller, the ace marketing man at M&G, the investment group, is looking for another job. "I have been

### HIGHLAND DISTILLERIES



"The recession is driving people to it"

sacked," said Miller, in his usual direct manner. Miller, the man behind the £246 million "biggest ever" investment trust launch and who also helped the group become the number one provider of personal equity plans, claims that he has good reason to feel aggrieved. His most recent task was, he says, to review the group's marketing strategy and he consequently suggested that life assurance and unit trusts be handled by one person. He then suggested that he would be the ideal candidate for that job. But the board did not agree and Peter Emms, currently at Allied Dunbar — will be joining M&G shortly. Miller, previously managing director at Framlington, is, he says, now looking for "something quite significant". Paddy Linaker, managing director of M&G, confirms Miller's version of events. "It is a very amicable arrangement. Tim has been very good in his area of direct marketing. The

board took the view that the job had changed and that we wanted someone experienced to take charge of sales and marketing." Miller's own review had pointed the group in that direction. Neither would be drawn on the compensation Miller, 51, will receive.

### Gender bender

YOU would think that Lars-Ake Helgasson, who today puts in his first City appearance as president of the Swedish company Stora, Europe's largest forest products group, would have no trouble getting across a masculine image for his company. But Tommy Fors, the bearded head of Stora's ancient copper mine at Falun, central Sweden, explains, the company logo, which includes the chemical symbol for copper, is a cause of confusion. For the symbol is the same circle with a cross at the bottom that symbolises the female gender and is much used in feminist circles.

THE Building Societies Association must be feeling very important. Its monthly inflow and outflow figures are now considered so important that the Bank of England has asked the BSA to co-ordinate the release of the numbers with its own provisional monetary statistics. The co-ordination should also avoid any insider trading on the BSA figures. Such an eventuality may sound unlikely, but the BSA says its releases have been leaked early a couple of times causing Bank of England officials much concern.

CAROL LEONARD



### VILLA DEI CESARI RESTAURANT

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Admiral	Banking	1.00
2	Worthington	Banking	1.00
3	Worthington	Banking	1.00
4	Worthington	Banking	1.00
5	Worthington	Banking	1.00
6	Worthington	Banking	1.00
7	Worthington	Banking	1.00
8	Worthington	Banking	1.00
9	Worthington	Banking	1.00
10	Worthington	Banking	1.00
11	Worthington	Banking	1.00
12	Worthington	Banking	1.00
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45	Worthington	Banking	1.00
46	Worthington	Banking	1.00
47	Worthington	Banking	1.00
48	Worthington	Banking	1.00
49	Worthington	Banking	1.00
50	Worthington	Banking	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

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If you have picked off your eight share prices from Match The Shares game add them up and see if they total £1,000. If they do you win £1,000. Claim your prize by telephoning 0254 55272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

## FOUR WINNERS EQUALLY SHARE THE PRIZE

Four winners equally share the Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. Mrs A. Barlow, Huddersfield; Ms H. McArthur, Hants; Mrs J. Chapman, Fareham; and Mr K. Wilson, Lewes, E. Sussex.

## BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	Admiral	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
4	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
5	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
6	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
8	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
9	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
10	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
11	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
12	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
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24	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
25	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
26	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
27	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
28	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
29	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
30	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
31	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
32	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
33	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
34	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
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## BREWERIES

No.	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
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2	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	Worthington	1.00	1.00	1.00
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## BUILDING, ROADS

No.	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
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## ELECTRICALS

18	Philis Sinc A's	153		6.7	23	14.4
127	Colfax Mew	157	-16	6.7	5.7	15.3
130	Colfax Mew	157		6.7	5.7	15.3
313	Greenella Corp	368	+3	11.6	14.1	12.7
405	Greene King	405		11.6	14.4	11.8
490	Goldman	526	+6	10.8	2.7	15.1
245	Hardy Hansen	246		2.7	13.5	
15	Heortec Inc	135		3.0	3.0	18.8
95	Heortec Inc	95		3.0	3.0	18.8
191	Highland Dist	21	+6	6.0	3.5	
21	Highland Dist	21				
21	Highland Dist	21				
268	Livington Dist	319	-1	6.5	2.7	18.0
475	Machin Mactn A's	496		8.8	2.8	11.9
515	Machin Mactn A's	496		13.6	2.8	13.8
146	Manitowoc Ship	214		6.8	1.9	11.7
405	Manitowoc Ship	413		15.7	5.1	11.7
215	Martynow Inc	218	+			3.4



**THEATRE page 30**

Women, sexuality and  
Lorca: Dinah Stabb  
excels at the Gate as  
the bitter Bernarda Alba

# ARTS

**MUSICAL page 31**

With Tony Slattery on  
board, a new West End  
show revels in nostalgia  
for wartime radio frolics



Sir Georg Solti, 80 next week, has not lost his passion for conducting or controversy, as Richard Morrison discovers

## Veteran with new scores to settle

Between us, on a table, is a massive bronze statue of Bruckner's Third Symphony. A poet would find that symbolic. Sir Georg Solti, 80 next week, performed this epic work for the first time just two weeks ago. After more than 50 years in the business, he still has a raging thirst to conduct.

At present he is back at Covent Garden rehearsing Verdi's *Otello*. Then there are birthday concerts galore on two continents, and *Rigoletto* at La Scala. Next year, he does a centenary production of Verdi's autumnal masterpiece *Pastorale*. "I am deeply in love with it; probably because of my own age."

After that, more recordings... the plans stretch towards 2000. "So much wonderful music written, and I will die not knowing half of it," he says. But there is not a whiff of resignation in that famous corkscrew of an accent. Rather, the tone suggests a colossal will to go on and on. "I am a very curious musician. I continually broaden my horizons, and never believed the old-fashioned idea, *à la* Furtwängler, that you keep on doing the same 30 pieces. Nor do I want to make performances like photocopies. Of course, the price is high: I work harder than any other conductor, because I am not faking and I know my scores."

Solti's physical burliness seems undiminished. Had he chosen to be a middleweight boxer he would surely have bloodied many a nose. Nor has age blunted his wit, a quality sometimes forgotten in all the tales of Georg the Terrible. In fact, he hardly gives the impression of having reached middle-age yet, and that illusion is sustained by his family. His younger daughter started at Oxford only last week.

Yet this is a man who studied with Bartók and played glöckenspiel for Toscanini. "Please," he demurs, "let us not talk about my life from age five. We will talk about today and tomorrow." Here, then, is a question for today. As the conductor who presided over Covent Garden's golden era in the Sixties, is he not disappointed to return to the Royal Opera in its present parlous state?

"The government must make up its mind," he commands. "Does it want an opera house or not? Better to close the place than to let half-starvation we have now. Only when the government gives adequate money can it accuse the opera house of not getting results. And I



am very saddened by the high prices. £100 for a good seat. Young people cannot come to the house. I know the economic difficulties we face in England. But why does the first saving always come in the arts? It is a pity that David Mellor left government, whatever careless nonsense he did. He understands the arts' needs."

Solti warns to a favourite theme: the undervaluing of musicians. If you pay them badly, he says, they have to moonlight, and their playing suffers. "You may tell me that they will do this anyway. Musicians are generally greedy; we accept that. But if they are well paid the conductor has the right to say: 'Take home the part and practise.'"

**'Better to close the Royal Opera House than the half-starvation we have now'**

Lack of cash for the arts is a specifically British problem, but Solti detects a more general operational malaise. "It is essential that opera begins and ends with musical considerations. The function of the music director is crucial in any successful opera house." Tactfully, he makes no mention of Covent Garden here. "Perhaps producers are so dominant in opera now because there are so few good conductors interested in doing it. For example, Göttinger hasn't done opera for years. Really it has been only Abbado, Muti and me."

Solti believes that young conductors today are too vain to serve the apprenticeship he had: as an opera-house repetiteur. "You learn all the repertoire line by line with the singers, and you do all the dirty work. Nowadays, young conductors cannot be bothered. Of course, it is a slow advancement: you need six years. It's like being a medicine student. You don't start operating on people immediately; you learn anatomy first. In opera, learning anatomy means learning how singers breathe. Conductors who were

never repetiteurs don't breathe; they just play."

Knowing how singers breathe has not stopped Solti from having memorable spats with some of them. He wants instrumental perfection from voices, and a few singers have chafed under his demands. In Covent Garden days he famously crossed swords with the tenor Jon Vickers. More recently, he castigated Jessye Norman in the American press after she had withdrawn late from a premiere.

No institution lies closer to his heart than the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, though he retired from being its music director last year after 22 years. "We achieved so much. I shouldn't say 'we' any more, yet I feel still committed to Chicago. Don't forget they are my boys and girls: there are 66 players in that orchestra who I engaged."

And how did he mould his "boys and girls" into an ensemble that dazzled the world? Is it necessary, for example, for a great orchestral trainer to be ruthless and dictatorial? Solti laughs hugely. "Look, a conductor and orchestra is not a democracy. Imagine if I said to the violins: 'what do you think? how should we play this?'"

Well, some conductors do. "I know, and look what the result is. A disaster! It doesn't matter if you are the son of the Tsar, if you come to an orchestra not knowing exactly what you want their respect will vanish in five minutes."

Then there is the matter of a clear beat. "The most important thing I say to students is: clarity is the essence. The beat is your bible." Yet Solti has often been criticised by players on exactly this point.

"Yes, I wasn't so clear once. Players complained all the time. They still complain, but more politely. They don't say 'we can't understand you'. Instead they say 'we don't quite see what you want'. So I reply 'this is either your fault or mine, and we do it again with me beating as clearly as I can. If it still doesn't work, I say 'Okay, it's your fault.'"

Solti is one of the most recorded conductors in history. In 45 years with Decca he has made hundreds of discs — and listens to none of them. "That is the only way, otherwise you get depressed. My interpretations are so different now, even from 15 years ago."

His luck was to come to maturity exactly as the recording age did. "I was 13 when we heard, for the first time, music on radio. It was



Sir Georg Solti: "So much wonderful music written, and I will die not knowing half of it", he says

terrible." Solti gives an impression of static coming out of a wireless. "Yet people said 'that is the end of live music'. It wasn't. Then along came the LP. They said: 'Hat that will finish off concerts'. Quite the opposite. The people listening at home became curious. They wanted to hear it in real life."

Earlier this year he tried to withdraw from conducting the Covent Garden *Otello*. "I said: why do you make me work on my

80th birthday?" The Royal Opera persuaded him that the British public would be much disappointed if he pulled out. That is true. Solti belongs to a greatly revered emigrant generation: musicians who, forced out of their homelands, have enriched British life immeasurably.

His decision to take British citizenship in 1972 was "a natural thing", he says. "Actually, I was infuriated, when we came through Heathrow, that my wife went

quickly through the channel for British citizens while I stood in a big queue for foreigners. So I went to a friend, Robert Armstrong, who said he would look into it." Not surprisingly, with the head of the Civil Service looking into it, Solti's British passport arrived in record time. "Of course, the first time I came back through Heathrow with a British passport, there was a huge queue for the British channel and the foreign one was empty."

## Notes on eight decades

October 21, 1912: Solti is born in Budapest. A child prodigy, giving piano recitals at 12. Solti then studied under Kodály and Bartók.

1930: Repetiteur in Budapest.

1935: Assisted Bruno Walter at Salzburg Festival, then worked for two years as Toscanini's assistant; possibly his most formative experience.

1938: Debut as conductor, *Figaro* in Budapest. But as a Jew his future in Hungary is bleak.

August 1939: Flees to Switzerland just before border closes. Supports himself during war with piano teaching and playing.

1945: With Nazi conductors ruled out, the American army makes Solti music director of Bavarian State Opera in Munich. In 1952 he moves to same job in Frankfurt.

1947: Recording of Beethoven and Brahms chamber music begins his 45-year association with British record company, Decca. His first contract was for £30. Hundreds of recordings followed.

1956: A *Magic Flute* at Salzburg is generally thought to have launched his international career. In the 1950s he conducted all major US and European orchestras.

1959: With *Der Rosenkavalier* he makes a mesmeric Covent Garden debut. Two years later, he becomes music director of Royal Opera House. He stays for ten years.

1965: Solti completes his Decca recording of *The Ring*: the first integral *Ring* set ever issued.

1967: Marries Valerie Pitts, an English television presenter sent to interview him. His first marriage had broken up several years earlier.

1969: Appointed conductor of Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Says he will give it ten years. Stays for 22.

1971: Knighted, and becomes a British citizen.

1972: Appointed musical director of the Orchestre de Paris; retains the post until 1975.

1979: Principal conductor of London Philharmonic, until 1983.

1979: Returns to Budapest for the first time in 40 years, and later establishes links and educational opportunities for young Hungarian musicians.

## Box office may be good, but it's better by bus

BRITAIN languishes in recession, but are they downhearted in the theatre? Not a bit, apparently. According to Susan Whiddington, the development officer of the Society of West End Theatre (Swet), business is booming in the West End.

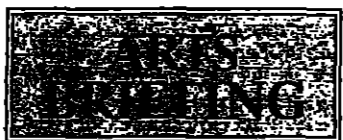
Box office attendances for the first eight months of this year were up four per cent over the same period in 1991, she says — and the scare stories of a few months ago were clearly nothing more than the overwrought reaction to a traditional summer lull.

"We are not doing terrible business in the West End. There are lots of shows that are doing terribly well. That doesn't mean every show is doing brilliantly... yes, certain shows haven't fared well this year. But that happens every year."

Nevertheless, the theatre producers are today launching a new initiative aimed at broadening their market. But instead of directing their efforts at the individual ticket buyer, they are aiming this initiative at the group market — or "coach trade" as it is sometimes dismissively known. Swet is hosting Stage Fair — a day-long event at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, opened by the actress Patricia Hodge — specifically for the travel trade and group organisers. The idea is to show the tourism professionals what the West End has to offer through special presentations, seminars, backstage tours and theatre visits.

Whiddington maintains that the society is trying to woo "the coach parties, the women's institutes, groups of ten people or more". Group bookings already account for about ten per cent of the West End theatre audience.

Whether or not Stage Fair does the business, West End theatre managements have already perked up this autumn, as they see the pound plunging. Each notch that sterling moves downward in the foreign exchange markets means that the Germans, the Japs and the



Yankees have a little more cash to spend on best stalls seats during their London visits.

THE European Community may not yet be ready to throw open the doors to eastern Europe's new republics, but the European Film Awards are doing their part. Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Slovenia and Croatia have all submitted entries for the annual competition organised by the European Film Academy. The former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia was also represented, until Greece, which disputes the republic's right to the name, threatened to withdraw its own entries in protest. Macedonia's film, *Tatoo*, remains in competition, but will now fly without any national flag.

Britain is fielding Terence Davies' *The Long Day Closes*, Mark Peploe's *Affraid of the Dark* and, in the documentary category, Paul Pawlikowski's *Dostoevsky's Travels*. The prize ceremony takes place in Berlin on December 12.

### Technical knockout

WHAT is the finest new museum in Europe? The answer lies in Mannheim, according to the Council of Europe, which has just proclaimed the dauntingly named "State Museum of Technology and Work" in that fair German city as European Museum of the Year. The judges were specially impressed, it seems, by the way this museum "places the technical and economic importance of Baden-Württemberg firmly in its social context, without attempting to gloss over the points at which technology has failed humanity". Mannheim beat 46 other new museums to the trophy, designed by Henry Moore.



Prized? Ayse Owens, Leigh McCormack in *The Long Day Closes*

Among the five specially commended was a British entrant: Inveraray Jail, which was said to display "strong dramatic sense and outstanding historical integrity".

WHO would have thought it could have lasted this long? The International Mime Festival will mark its 15th anniversary in January and February with more than 100 performances at seven venues around London, as well as on tour to Oxford, Nottingham, Bury St Edmunds and Oundle. Artists from the United States, Italy, France, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia and Britain will take part in the two-week festival of visual theatre. The anniversary itself will be celebrated by leading personalities from the worlds of theatre, music, dance and comedy who will gather to pay tribute to some favourite mime clichés in 15 years in the *Glass Box* at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on January 24.

### Deep in the Wells

SADLER'S WELLS, which has been struggling to overcome a £500,000 accumulated deficit, has decided to hire an independent consultancy to review all aspects of the theatre's operation. The review, to be carried out by the arts managers Bomar Keenlyside, follows previous assessments of

Sadler's Wells by the Arts Council and the London Arts Board.

"This is the first time we have actually planned and paid for an assessment ourselves," says Stephen Remington, director of Sadler's Wells. "The previous assessments raised some interesting points — about both our strengths and our weaknesses — which we have to explore in a great deal more depth."

With this review we are looking to achieve a firm financial and business footing for the delivery of our artistic and social policies for the future," adds Remington, who refuses to disclose how much the new review is costing.

### Last chance...

LEMONHEADS, the much-praised trio from Boston led by gangling guitarist Evan Dando, peddle a curious form of melodic grunge-rock. Their latest album, *It's a Shame About Ray*, boasts many good tunes, but the finer points tend to get torpedoed by the thrashy tone and explosive thrust of the group's live performance. Fast and furious, if a trifle disorganised, Lemonheads wrap up their UK tour with dates at Warehouse, Leeds (0532 468287), tonight, Waterfront, Norwich (0603 766266), tomorrow, and Astoria, London WC2 (071-434 0403), Thursday.

## Europe invades - the second wave



After a sparkling summer programme, the second half of the European Arts Festival begins this month and runs up to the end of the year.

From Aberystwyth to Aberdeen, from Portadown to Portsmouth there will be hundreds of events across the country, including special festival productions of opera, theatre and dance, as well as exhibitions and literary events.

The free updated guide is now available through local libraries and arts and information centres. Look out for the Festival near you - and discover the first language of Europe.



**EUROPEAN ARTS FESTIVAL**  
JULY-DECEMBER 1992



# Tuning in to the nation's heartbeat

In the second world war, radio kept Britain's spirits high. David Robinson recalls the entertainers who have inspired a musical opening this week

Those oddballs from whom the new West End show *Radio Times* draws its dramatic, personae were the reluctant heroes of the second world war. They were the faceless but familiar friends of radio variety who became vital to our national morale in the first war that British radio was on hand to fight.

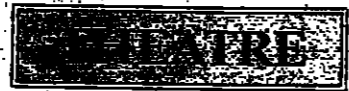
The ventriloquists, the comedians, the close harmony singers, the Forces' Favourite, they have all been brought together in the new musical devised by Alex Armitage from an original script by Robin Miller. Using some of Noel Gay's best-known songs — "Run, Rabbit, Run", and "There's Something About A Soldier" among them — the production, starring Tony Slattery, is set in a (fictional) underground BBC radio studio in 1940 London.

Before the war the variety department had been the bastard son of the BBC. The men in music and drama, talks and documentary came from the universities, the arts establishment, the West End theatre. The disreputable red-nose mob had drifted in from concert-party, vaudeville and comic papers.

And, as *Radio Times* portrays, they were constantly under the censor's chill gaze. Official reports regularly attacked the vulgarity of variety, and phrases as indecent as "winter draws on" were banned; shows were purged of smut and unflattering remarks about the royal family.

Two days before war was declared, the BBC variety department — consisting of two bands, 22 artists and several animals — was evacuated to the supposed safety of Bristol. Three parish halls were hastily converted into studios. In the first month the original gallant 22 put on 118 shows. But Bristol turned out to be an unlucky choice. The city was blitzed, leaving broadcasters to work by the light of hurricane lamps and from halls with all the windows blown out. In April 1941, the variety department — now expanded to 432 persons, 17 dogs and one parrot — moved on to the greater safety of Bangor, where it remained till 1943.

By this time the BBC was originating 85 variety shows every week (the



number included broadcasts of light music). They took their war effort seriously. Shows with titles such as *Ack-Ack, Beer-Beer, Shipmates Ashore, Ship's Company* and *Women at War* were specifically designed for service listeners. Request programmes linked the fighting forces and their families back home.

War-time censorship extended to the choice of music. Initially, crooning and "stuffy" numbers were banned. Stirring martial music was considered to suit the times best. This theory was overturned, however, by the overwhelming popularity of "The Forces' Favourite" Vera Lynn, with her singular line in melancholy sentiment, exemplified by "We'll Meet Again".

Radio variety promoted a sense of national unity: all Britain joined in the same songs and laughed at the same gags at the same time. The week was marked off by daily high spots of fun, beginning with *Monday Night at Eight*. On Tuesday there was *ITMA*; on Wednesday *The Kentucky Minstrels* and on Thursday *Songs from the Shows* and *Henry Hall's Guest Night*. Friday was the only poor night for variety, presumably you went out and queued at the fish and chip shops which, with their meagre wartime allocations, only opened, if at all, on Friday and Saturday.

Saturday night was the big night, with *Garrison Theatre*, *Band Waggon* and *Music Hall*, an old-fashioned vaudeville-style programme, which could call on the biggest stars in Britain. In those Reithian days, no variety shows were broadcast live on the Sabbath. But repeats were allowed; so Sunday — when families had most chance of being together — offered a marvellous reprise of the week's big shows.

Two comedy shows finally dominated wartime radio. Coincidentally their respective presiding geniuses, Arthur Askey and Tommy Handley,



Forces favourites? Amy (Harriet Benson, left) and Olive (Kathryn Evans) are singers in *Radio Times*

had gone to the same Liverpool school, and shared the same infatigably cheerful, chirpy delivery.

*Band Waggon* was Britain's first radio situation comedy show, with eccentric characters inhabiting their own crazy world. It had the additional attraction that it subverted the BBC's dignified image. Listeners followed the absurd adventures of Big Hearted Arthur and his friend Stinker (Richard Murdoch). They were represented as living in a flat at the top of Broadcasting House with Wallace the goat and a washing line on which they hung their "smalls" for all West One to see.

*ITMA* was a conscious attempt to duplicate the formula and success of *Band Waggon*. Unlike Askey, a newcomer to radio, Tommy Handley followed the absurd adventures of the BBC's dignified image. Listeners followed the absurd adventures of Big Hearted Arthur and his friend Stinker (Richard Murdoch). They were represented as living in a flat at the top of Broadcasting House with Wallace the goat and a washing line on which they hung their "smalls" for all West One to see.

*ITMA* went out in July 1939, but not until its fourth series in 1942 did it soar to its unparalleled popularity.

Handley was generally His Whistling the Mayor of Foaming at the Mouth; though sometimes he might be elevated to such high office as His Fatuity the Minister of Social Hilarity. He was surrounded by grotesques, each of whom would rattle into his office with a catch-phrase which would guarantee an explosion of laughter and applause from the studio audience. There was Mrs Mopp the charlatry, with her lewdly courteous request, "Can I do you now, sir? Ah-Oop the oriental pedlar ("I go — I come back"); Funt, the Nazi spy; the English-shaming Signor So-and-So; the hughubious Div- and bibulous Colonel Chinstrap ("I don't mind if I do").

Another programme rather surprisingly under the odd aegis of the variety department was close running-up to these two shows in popularity. *The Brains Trust* was what the BBC at that time called "an argument programme". It was a triumph of casting. The debate and bicker of the three original participants — sombre scientist Julian Huxley; squeaky phi-

## ROCK

### Dead and alive

Shamen  
Brixton Academy

YEARS of nocturnal living have altered The Shamen's circadian rhythms. These days, their shows often kick off at around the time the rest of the British Isles is contemplating getting up. This is not a problem for their audience of night-dwelling ravers, but it is hellish for reviewers, who must decide whether to sleep before or after the gig.

This concert-rave was the group's first live date since they reached No 1 in September with the single "Ebenzeer Goode". They may currently be fixtures at Television Centre, but their concerts still have a tribal, underground feel. The Shamen's quasi-mystical manifesto claims that their shows reproduce the hallucinogenic experience. To this end, they deploy a barrage of effects utilising the latest in audio and lighting technology. Was it "hallucinogenic"? After 15 minutes of the relentless sensory bombardment, you certainly wanted a drink.

The group — programmer Colin Angus and rapper Mr C plus hired guitarist and percussionist — took the stage with surprisingly little fanfare. The techno soundtrack ceased; the musicians glided on and, without ado, slid into what sounded like a continuation of the record that had

preceded it. Sci-fi images filled a screen behind them and lasers played havoc with the retinas. The performers did little to emphasise their presence for long periods it was easy to forget that this was live music.

That, apparently, was deliberate. To encourage a proper sense of abandon, the group reduced its role to that of machine operators. Behind his computers, Angus was a detached, boffin figure. Upfront, the Perma-dancing Mr C sped through his lines with the air of a man forced into it for appearance's sake. The Cockney interjections on "Ebenzeer Goode" were suffused with the weariness of a time-share salesman at the end of a long day.

The velocity of the music carried things along, yet you longed for a feeling of engagement with the group. That only occurred once, when guest vocalist Jhelisa arrived to sing the recent hit "Love, Sex, Intelligence". Her soulful presence temporarily animated the atmosphere.

CAROLINE SULLIVAN

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### Pretty poor show

THE problem with *The Price of Miracles*, first in a series called *The "Other" Americas* (last night), was that it seemed unwilling to support its sweeping assertions with meaningful facts. I only hope that the rest of this six-part survey of contemporary Latin America proves more substantial.

A confused, confusing portrait of Mexico, it was directed and produced by Marc de Beaufort. James Bellini's narration threw up one begged question after another, over manipulative images.

On a rubbish dump a band played music honouring the Virgin of Guadalupe, "traditional symbol of hope for millions of Mexicans living on the margins of society". Then: "Despite countless presidential initiatives, the gap between the rich and the poor is one of the widest in the world."

Cue shot of a Cartier shop. "The country is a victim of centuries of exploitation by the so-called civilised world," the narrator continued, and the scene shifted to a village and we met Maria Luz Ojeda forlornly patrolling a dried-up field. Since her parents died, she said, harvests had failed and now the land itself was dying, the days of plentiful maize and beans were gone.

People had drifted to the cities in search of a better life. Maria Luz's four daughters had all gone, and we met

### "Other" Americas Channel 4

Marcela (in Mexico City since 1972). Husband Atanacio had worked tirelessly to buy them a plot of land and raise and educate five healthy children, only to be murdered by jealous neighbours.

Now Marcela dreamt of bringing her family back home, but her eldest son, the breadwinner, favoured emigrating to the United States and sending money back to her. Their story was heart-breaking and illustrative of the poverty trap endlessly repeated under the Latin American sun.

If the film had concentrated on this family and not tried to cover the history of Mexico's failed land reforms, mini-boom in the Seventies, the collapse of Mexico City's infrastructure, protectionism, the newly-signed free-trade agreement with the US and Canada, the boom in assembly work in Tijuana and the untroubled existence of the rich, then it would have had an impact. But as the dispiriting images of poverty alternated with visions of excess, outrage was dulled rather than intensified. The poor of Mexico deserve better.

TONY PATRICK

DANCE UMBRELLA: Debra Craine meets Val Bourne, organiser of the festival

## Spokesperson for an umbrella

Britain's biggest dance festival is now so successful it competes against itself

Val Bourne will never forget the night Dance Umbrella was born — the famously reserved British audience stood up and voiced its outrage at the stage. The year was 1978, the performer was the eccentric American choreographer Douglas Dunn, and his solo, *Gestures in Red*, was unlike anything London dancegoers had ever seen before.

"They didn't know what had hit them. People were either delighted or they were totally shocked," remembers Bourne. "We had a screaming match in the theatre while he was trying to perform. Some-one just stood up and shouted 'This is an insult to my intelligence. How dare you put this work on?' whereupon somebody else stood up and said 'That's the best thing I've ever seen, so shut up'."

"This exchange was going on while poor old Douglas was crawling around the stage on his back, and having been told not to expect any sort of a

response from a British audience he had a terrible shock."

Fifteen years of festivals later, audiences have seen it all, thanks to Dance Umbrella and Val Bourne, its founder and sole artistic director. So if Douglas Dunn should return to these shores today, his brand of quixotic post-modernism probably wouldn't cause a single raised eyebrow.

"Nowadays it's a much more educated audience," says Bourne. "They've seen a lot of things and that makes them more open, but it also makes them more demanding. They want the best and they now have points of comparison. It's much more interesting to programme for that kind of an audience."

Should she wish to do so, Bourne could now sit back and count Umbrella's successes. Total audiences have grown from 4,000 in 1978 to 20,000 last year; the festival has expanded into Leicester and Newcastle; it regularly tours Umbrella companies regionally; it ranks as one of the world's biggest festivals of contemporary dance. And this year its achievements were recognised with the Prudential Award for Dance. Bourne herself has also been recognised: winner of the 1989 Digital Premier Award; honoured with an OBE in the 1991 Birthday Honours List.

This year's Dance Umbrella, which runs until November 11, is one of the biggest ever. It will offer 22 companies in 50 performances at seven venues in London over four weeks, starting with the Slotham Davies Dance Company at Riverside Studios tomorrow night.

Subsequent weeks will bring Merce Cunningham, Urban Bush Women and Stephen Petronio from America, along with a "Transatlantic Tap" programme, the first time the festival has embraced tap dance. From Europe will come Jean-Claude Gallotta and Compagnie Bagouet from France, and companies from Belgium, Spain and Italy.

The American connection is important, as it has been ever since Umbrella began in 1978, when it seemed all the

new ideas in modern dance came from across the Atlantic. But this year America's pride of place is shared with Europe, a fitting metaphor for the general schizophrenia in British contemporary dance.

"In the very early days of Umbrella we looked across the Atlantic all the time because all the influences were American; there was not a great deal happening in Europe. I think the pendulum has swung, or is swinging, backwards and forwards now so there is equally interesting work in Europe as there is in America. And I think you will see the pendulum go further, you might be looking at Japan or Australia. It's no longer a single focus."

Still, Bourne had planned a high-profile artistic centrepiece as the linchpin for one last transatlantic tie-up: an Anglo-American commission that was to have involved Britain's Michael Clark and America's Stephen Petronio. "Only they found they couldn't work together, or rather their companies couldn't work together. It was sort of a minor disaster for us."

"We were going to do it here and Dance Umbrella in Boston. We had raised money from Digital to put it on, money had been raised in America. That all fell apart. But these things happen. It doesn't mean I've lost faith in Michael or in Stephen; it was perhaps too good to be true to combine the two of them."

Then, just as Bourne was grappling with the problem of a lost linchpin, along came the European Arts Festival to the rescue, with chequebook in hand. "So we sort of swung round toward Europe and there was absolutely no problem at all in putting together a programme. I think we did it in a week."

"It's a bigger festival this year than we've had before, and it's denser. There is even at least one week where in theory we could be competing against ourselves."

"But still I'm quite scared, in a way, because of the recession. I'm just hoping the

strong programme will sustain the festival."

● Dance Umbrella opens tomorrow with Slotham Davies Dance Company at Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 0SL (01-748 3354), 7.45pm

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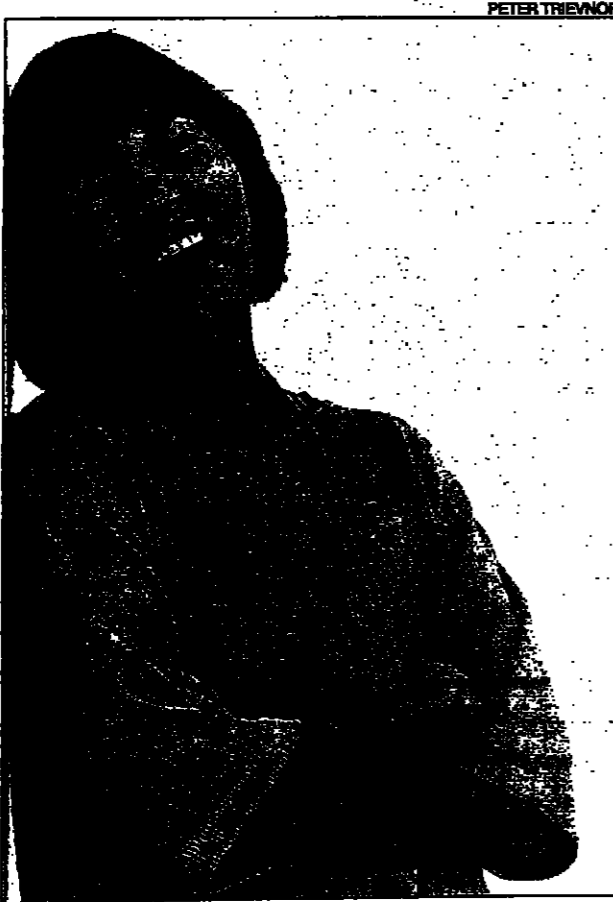
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Val Bourne on balancing Dance Umbrella: "now there is equally interesting work in Europe and America"

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Can ITN combine quality with profitability? A report next from Melinda Wittstock

# After the break, trouble

Independent Television News (ITN) has always emerged victorious from the world's battlefields, its correspondents decorated year after year with television journalism's highest awards. But now, after 37 years in the front lines, ITN, the target of a barrage of sniper fire from the boardrooms of ITV, is fighting for its commercial life.

Protracted negotiations over the news company's contract to supply *News at Ten* and other bulletins to ITV from next January have reached a virtual impasse. A war of words over ITN's efforts to impose a £10 million budget squeeze has devastated the already faltering morale of ITN's shrinking troops.

Two weeks ago Andrew Quinn, the new chief executive of ITV, described the news company's shares as being "of nil value" and called into question ITN's chances of survival as the stand-alone, profit-making company required by the 1990 Broadcasting Act.

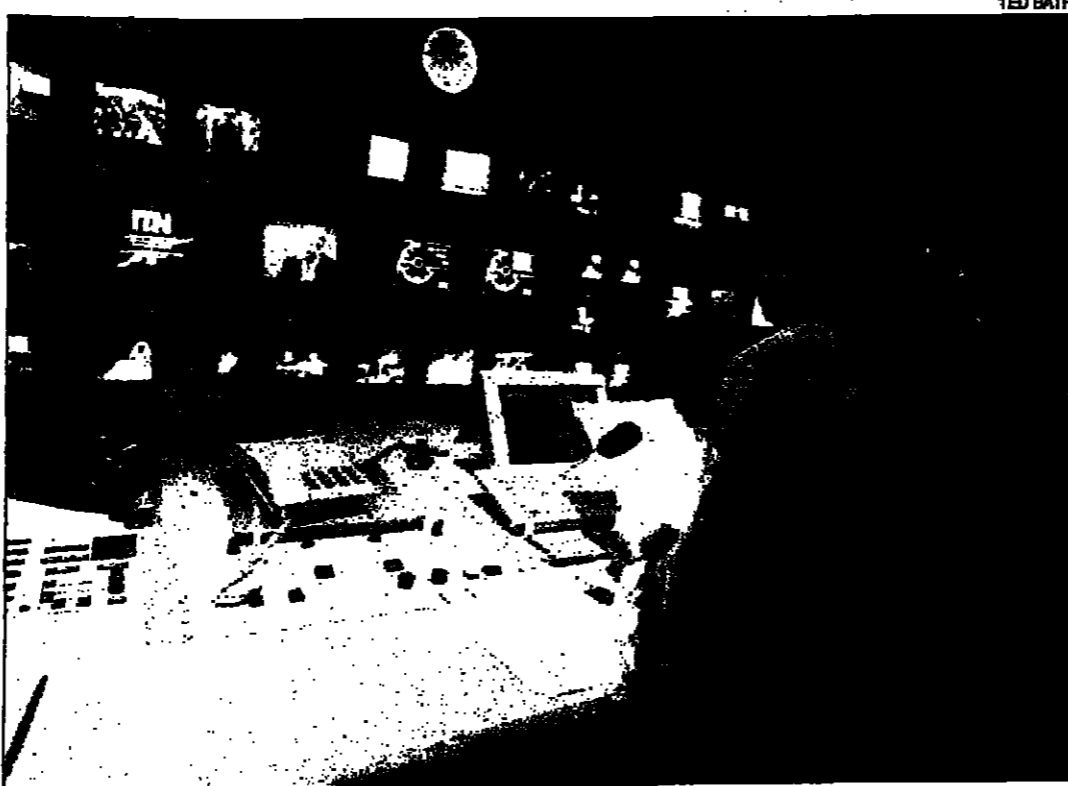
His remarks, which came two days after ITN announced 112 redundancies under strict cost-cutting measures, sent two more talented ITN employees into the arms of rival news organisations. Peter Allen, ITN's political correspondent, is one of the latest to leave, joining London News Network (LNN), the new local news programme to be jointly produced by London Weekend Television and Carlton Television from January 1. Joining him will be ITN's Vicky Knight as senior news editor — working with Nigel Hancock, former director of news intake for ITN — and Tim Ewart, ITN's former Moscow correspondent.

Nick Pollard, for years *News at Ten*'s highly respected executive producer, resigned to start up a media consultancy. Many staff fear that ITN is moving inexorably downmarket because of the ITV-imposed budget cuts, despite fierce denials of any decline in quality from management. They are also worried that both LNN and GMTV, which replaced *TV-am* in January, could pose a serious threat to ITN when the Independent Television Commission (ITC) reviews ITN's monopoly of ITV news provision in 1995.

Both LNN and GMTV are backed by Visnews, the television picture agency recently taken over by Reuters, which has undisputed ambitions to challenge ITN. Employees are also fearful that the BBC's talks with Sky News about satellite ventures, as well as the rapid expansion of World Service television, will limit the number of opportunities for ITN's expansion.

"Of course morale is low," says Bob Phillips, ITN's chief executive. Despite the fact that ITN has consistently wiped the floor with its competitors in successive Royal Television Society and Bafta journalism awards — this year, it claimed an unprecedented clean sweep of all five RTS awards — Mr Phillips has been put in the unenviable position of justifying drastic cost-cutting to his staff as a guarantee of ITN's long-term future, only for them to hear from Mr Quinn two days later that ITN will always be unprofitable, regardless of staffing levels.

Michael Nicholson, ITN's veteran foreign correspondent, attacked ITV executives over the weekend, labelling them "mugs of Mammon TV", and concerned only with

Screening a troubled future: the scene inside the *News at Ten* control room during a broadcast

entertaining the lowest common denominator for the greatest possible profit. "How drastically, how brutally, the best of British television is being hacked about in the name of cost efficiency," he said.

Mr Quinn says ITN has been forced into a Catch 22 by "misconceived legislation" forcing its ITV company owners to sell off 51 per cent of their joint shareholdings by 1994. The 15 regional ITV companies are reluctant to commit themselves to a sufficiently generous supply deal when the value of their shares is in doubt. ITN, meanwhile, cannot find new backers until it has secured a contract that would make it attractive to new investors.

**'No major news service in the world makes money as a stand-alone, commercial organisation. The government must think again'**

"ITN's shares are not disposable," Mr Quinn says. "This will go on confusing the negotiations. No major news service in the world makes money as a stand-alone, commercial organisation." Even America's CNN is a loss-maker, subsidised by the considerable profits of the other cable-television interests of its owner, Ted Turner. "The government must think again," Mr Quinn says.

There is no evidence that the government plans to think again. Relations between ITN and ITV have been fraught with friction ever since Sir Alastair Burnet persuaded Margaret Thatcher, who was then prime minister, that the news company had to open itself up to new commercial opportunities presented by broadcasting deregulation. Sir Alastair, ultimately forced to resign from ITN's board because of the dispute before stepping down a year later as its main newscaster, believed ITN had the potential to rival CNN on the world stage if it could be freed from the yoke of its parochial owners.

In the past two years, Mr Phillips

has presided over a painful transformation, from a heavily subsidised, cost-centred news service to the type of highly efficient, profit-making company that could attract new investors. The days of bloated salaries, limitless expense-accounts or over-manning extravaganzas are well and truly over. Costs have been cut, expense accounts slashed and more than 300 people have lost their jobs over the past year.

When Mr Phillips took over as chief executive, he said that his biggest challenge would be to persuade the ITV companies that it was in their best interest to "maximise ITN's value" by supporting it wholeheartedly in the lead-up to 1994, the deadline for

He adds: "Next year they will be paying a figure considerably less than any ITV company forecast in its business plan during the franchise auction."

Although ITC guidelines instruct ITV companies to pay between £55 million and £60 million a year in 1991 prices (about £65 million now), several ITV executives have made it clear they don't want to pay more than £45 million or £50 million at 1993 prices. Several ITV companies, particularly Yorkshire, Tyne Tees, and HTV, are thought to have over-bid for their licences during last October's blind bid auction and could easily be faced by cash problems as early as next year.

ITN is further encumbered by projected losses of £5.5 million a year for the next four years on four under floors in its lavish new Gray's Inn Road purpose-built premises, ironically bought on the advice of its shareholders who mistakenly foresaw a new revenue stream in property.

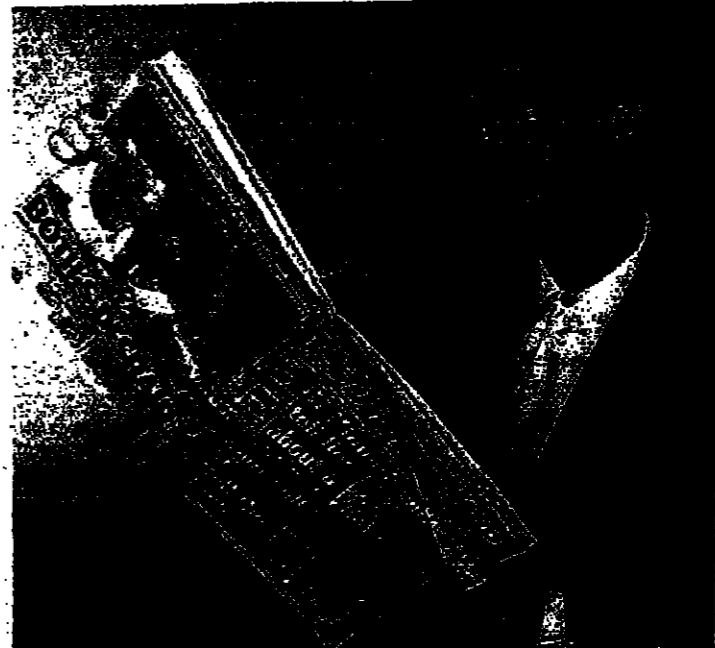
But ITN's very survival will be thrown into serious doubt if the ITV companies refuse to pay ITN enough to let the company make a profit, let alone keep up its traditionally high journalistic standards which have often won it higher ratings than the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News*. No shareholder of the ilk of CNN, or CBS, NBC and ABC, the three American networks now being courted by ITN, will want to buy shares in an unprofitable company when the breadth and quality of its news coverage have declined.

Tiring of what he sees as ITN's lack of support, Mr Phillips is determined that ITN will benefit from having "a smaller number of committed shareholders, which will help us grow as a first-class global news business". He also points out that ITV licences have won their franchises on the basis that they support and adequately fund "a high quality national and international news service".

The ITC will not comment directly on the battles between ITN and its shareholders, but the regulator does have the power to fine the ITV companies if they renege on their contractual obligations.

## Yes, they can say that

Lawyers are just as much a part of the *Have I Got News For You?* team as the script-writers



News leader: Angus Deayton, question-master and all-round wit

Let's face it, *The News Quiz* has a lot to answer for. For more years than Barry Took would care to count, the Radio 4 panel game has been inviting various journalistic and political hitmen to rip the week's papers apart, and with them the reputations of the people who figure most prominently in their pages.

It was inevitable that television should try to steal its clothes, but despite several attempts at a television news quiz, the problems were always the same. Where radio can rely upon newspaper cuttings, television has to have moving pictures, and news departments have never been keen to surrender footage to be used for the purposes of mere mockery. Parliament will not allow recordings of its proceedings to be used in anything but straight news and current affairs programmes.

And on the rare occasions when a news show of sorts was put together, the presence of lights, cameras and an audience had a sobering effect on contestants.

One show that did make it past the pilot stage and on to the screen was *Have I Got News For You?*, produced for the BBC by Hat Trick Productions, the company set up by Jimmy Mulville, Denise O'Donoghue and other members of the team that made *Who Dares Wins*, one of Channel 4's earliest hits.

Early episodes showed all the usual signs of timidity and unease that had afflicted other news games. But, by series two, *Have I Got News For You?* began to find its pace. The team leaders — Ian Hislop, the editor of *Private Eye* and a *News Quiz* veteran, and the comedian Paul Merton — relaxed into their roles as chief mischief-makers; politicians and journalists invited on as guests began to understand that their job was not to compete, but to complement the two residents, and Angus Deayton, the chairman, came to realise that a

little rudeness can go a very long way towards improving the ratings. What had begun life as a murky tangle became a shining jewel in the BBC2 crown, topping its charts with audiences of about six million.

Exactly what brought about this transformation is anybody's guess, but one unlikely factor cannot be discounted. Lawyers are not famed for their sense of humour, but the squad of BBC solicitors who keep an eye on *Have I Got News For You?* not only get the joke, but want to see it kept in the show.

Sean McTernan is one of them. He says: "It isn't my job to tell them what they can't say, but to help them say it in a way that won't get them sued. It's all a game of meaning and inference, and it goes much further than just checking what is said. We have to monitor everything from the opening titles to the music to the juxtaposition of stills and newspaper cuttings: a sharp legal lawyer can very quickly draw inferences from the way a sequence of images and words is strung together."

The unusual luxury of dealing with lawyers who like to say "yes" is not lost on Harry Thompson, the programme's producer. "Sean once complained about a Jeffrey

Archer gag because he considered it was insufficiently damaging," he says. "In some ways our legal experts are almost part of the writing team now."

"We do disagree over some things," Mr McTernan says. "Harry is very keen on negatives, and I'm not so sure. For instance, when Robert Maxwell was still around, Ian Hislop might have described him as a fine upstanding man who would never, ever, be found with his fingers in the till. In court, of course, a plaintiff would argue that everybody really knew Ian meant exactly the opposite, although I suppose he'd look pretty silly suing the programme for calling him a fine upstanding citizen. Not that it matters in Maxwell's case, of course. Ian can call him a fat old thief every week, and I just smile."

Should Mr Hislop pass such opinions on the living, there is time to repair the damage. "Angus and I prepare a draft script of his questions on Thursday morning and fax it to the lawyers," Mr Thompson says. "After that, various updated and revised versions pass each other on the fax machines until we go into the studio."

**PATRICK STODDART**  
● *Have I Got News For You?* is broadcast on BBC2 on Fridays (10pm).

## Madonna outvotes Maastricht

Nude photos and pets win in the Sunday-circulation battle

Whenever we were about to publish a really earnest article in one of the newspapers I used to work for, an experienced colleague used to mutter about "the merit of unread copy". Not many would read the article, he would say, but even as they flipped past, they would be flattered that the paper was treating them as serious citizens. Still greater cynics retorted that nothing sells newspapers faster than sex.

There was more flattery than sex in the quality papers last Sunday, when both *The Sunday Times* and *The Independent on Sunday* published detailed versions of the Maastricht treaty. Sponsored by Andersen Consulting and BT, which covered the £35,000 cost of 24 tabloid pages, *The Sunday Times* published the full treaty — obtained on disc for £2.95 from the cover of PC Plus magazine — with only the minimum of commentary. A 16-page tabloid in *The Independent on Sunday* was produced by Andrew Marshall, its West Europe editor, who spent four days and nights editing the 70,000 words to a coherent 20,000.

Meanwhile the Sunday paper with a real reputation for earnestness, the *Observer*, virtually ignored the Maastricht treaty and devoted nine pages of its magazine to full frontal and full rear-view pictures of Madonna, taken from her new book, *Sex*, served up with an accompanying Martin Amis essay and bought for £15,000.

Unsurprisingly, it was sex, and Madonna's bare breasts, that won the battle for sales, though neither *The Sunday Times* nor *The Independent on Sunday* promoted their Maastricht treaties on television.

After printing 700,000 copies, the *Observer* says it sold at least 610,000, an increase of 40,000 on the previous week. What remains to be seen is whether the *Observer* attracted promiscuous readers who will desert the paper this Sunday when there is no Madonna, or whether the new readers will stick — and whether Mr Treford's controversial decision will alienate traditional readers. Yet the paper with the biggest sales increase on Sunday was *The People* — which offered a packet of crisps with every copy and started *Pet People*, an eight-page pullout about cats and dogs. As a selling proposition, it seems pets are even hotter than sex.

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# Honour and decency in a venal trade

John Cole leaves our screens, Ian Aitken retires. Walter Ellis describes the strengths of two memorable commentators

Handcuffed, a mixed blessing. Usher, Skeggs, Lord, O'Neill, sounds good. Didn't make varsity, never saw Oxford, wrong accent, sounds bad. *Belfast Telegraph*, bit of a laugh. Lord Brookborough, Lord Wakehurst, Lord O'Neill, Lord save us. Out before the troubles start. Shouldn't oughter, but over the water. *Manchester Guardian*, reporting the unions. Next to the Commons to talk to the loony yins. Politics? What a fix. Deputy editor, beaten to the top. Goes to *Observer*, bit of a sop. Funny voice. Falls again. Wonders when. Then to the Beeb. Corridors of par, ministers in the hour. By anyone's reckoning, the big league beckoning. Herringbone coat, mink at throat, able to boast. Refuses. Much too nice for that. Heart attack. On the back. But shortly back. Thinner. Voice now endearing, leaders hearing. Mosses Thatcher. "What senior members of the cabinet are staying privately, David..." National Institution without election. "This is John Cole at Westminster." Nothing sinister. Good old John. Can he really be gone?

The *Private Eye* lampoon of John Cole's famous BBC delivery has annoyed its intended victim for years, but it is flattery of the surrealist kind. If Cole's heroically unrepentant Usher vowels still make English people smile, the smile has become one of recognition, not of dismissal. While his regional counterparts are regarded at best as semi-detached members of the Union, murdering one another or leaving bombs in litter bins, he has been adopted as one of



Message man: Ian Aitken

the British family, cherished for his homespun wisdom, admired for his refusal to knuckle under to convention.

His retirement last week as the BBC's political editor is a milestone, not a tombstone. He will continue to do occasional "big" interviews on television and is to present *Down Your Way* on Radio 4. He will also continue with his column in *New Statesman*. Yet his absence from the Nine O'Clock News, the *Today* programme and *Newsnight* will be deeply felt. He had an enviable knack of exuding judgment and gravitas without being pompous or obscure, and we always felt he was taking us into his confidence, rather as if we were meeting an old friend with a good story to tell in the local.

He would stand outside Westminster or in Whitehall and somehow reassure us that even though there was a crisis going on behind him, it was not serious and should not prevent us from enjoying our evening. While keeping us admir-

bly informed about failings of our masters, he communicated a sense of well-being that put politics securely in its place, somewhat below a good weekend in Esher.

Ian Aitken, whose retirement as the political editor of *The Guardian* after 17 years coincides with Cole's departure, represents a different strain of journalism, more partisan in outlook, more at home in civil society, yet more purposefully committed to social change. Oxford-educated Aitken, married into a landed Scots family, three of whose members are titled, and worked as a factory inspector after the war, naively believing that this was the way to advance the cause of the working class.

His parents were Scottish communists, who broke with the party in 1939 after Stalin's accommodation with Hitler. After Oxford, the London School of Economics and the Royal Navy, he worked as a reporter on *Tribune*. He moved soon afterwards to Lord Beaverbrook's *Daily Express*, whose jingoistic imperialism was balanced by a large foreign budget and the opportunity this gave to young men keen to see the world.

Aitken reported brilliantly for the *Express* from Algeria and other war zones. At home he was the first to reveal John Profumo's intended resignation. However, it was as a political analyst and commentator in *The Guardian* that he made his name, concerned with the message, not the medium, and regarding himself as "an unconstructed and unapologetic Bevinite". His was not the politics of journalism, but the journalism of politics. Cole had brought Aitken on to *The Guardian*, and Aitken was the campaign manager for his benefactor during Cole's failed attempt to become editor.



Time to go: John Cole, who talked politics with authority but without effort, has retired but may be back for special occasions

ian, and Aitken was the campaign manager for his benefactor during Cole's failed attempt to become editor.

The two men, one an enlightened member of the bourgeoisie, the other a quiescent revolutionary

with bourgeois tendencies, remain firm friends and show that journalists can be honourable and decent, as well as incisive, in an increasingly venal trade. Aitken dislikes word processors and professionally is most at home, glass of Scotch in

hand, dictating crisp prose down the telephone. Perhaps he will now do this with obituaries. At 64, Cole will happily stand under an umbrella in driving rain, remarking without irony on political life. Younger journalists, who often

behave like policemen on an accelerated promotion scheme, are unlikely to see either as a role model for the 1990s. If so, it is a pity, for they have each achieved something rare in journalism: they have risen with grace.

Men are scared to death of getting to know themselves. I am drawn to this observation — not yet a conclusion — after reading some of the new breed of men's magazines. When I edited women's magazines, men would often tell me that they discovered more about women from women's magazines than they did from their own. Men say women live in a different world, lifting the corner of their impenetrable cloak of secrecy only through their magazines.

I would explain to men that women's magazines were a sort of fifth column for a sex that at times felt aggrieved, undervalued, an emerging "nation" beset by a thousand exclusive problems initiated by its colonial "masters". On the other hand, women's magazines celebrated the joys of womanhood, and that made us feel a little better about ourselves. The self-analysis of women's magazines seemed to me sometimes to displace and excuse the fact that emancipation was so slow, that women were taking so long to find their place in a modern world.

The absence of general interest magazines — magazines appealing to men as men, rather than men as car mechanic, heavy metal rocker, sex organ or computer head — was because men did not feel threatened. They ruled the modern world of their invention and their place in it was

General interest magazines for men have caught on in the past ten years, but what do they say about their readers?

## Loading the magazine to pull in the male reader

established without question. So is it the changing balance of power between men and women that has described the need for general interest magazines for men? Suddenly the slaves are threatening to run the state.

Or is it simply that men are now comfortable with the magazine format through 20 years of Sunday magazine supplements? They realise that their image is no longer threatened by looking at war and politics and finance and sport in glossy colour.

The one thing men do not seem ready for is introspection, and there is no chance of any of that in their magazines. Their *Angels* are safe. Self-analysis is a no-no in the new glossy men's magazines.

Women's magazines are riddled with self-doubt and introspection. Every issue has a "know yourself" article or quiz or at least an exploration of some deeply hidden motivation: why do you want to be fat/thin, why do you want to achieve/not to achieve? After 20 years of editing women's magazines, there is not an inch of my psyche with which I am not on familiar terms.

Men's magazines are all about style and people and events and action and lofty reviews of esoteric arts shows. At least that is how the new glossies seem to me. Men have

been criticising women's magazines for decades. What's sauce for the goose, chaps. Revenge is sweet.

In their October issues, both *Q* and *Esquire* offer more than 200 pages — most of which is advertising — for £2. They are exactly the same size, and the casual, disinterested reader would say she could not tell the difference.

They sell fewer than 100,000 copies each, but *Q* is pushing ahead faster than *Esquire*. I do not know the editor of *Q* but I gather he has been mentioned in gossip columns, so he must be somebody. *Q* comes from the *Vogue* stable and the *Vogue* imprint is upon it. It is not about "issues", although Art Malik adds some street cred. It is up-to-date, a bit *Pseud's* Corner, but then this intro to the excellent big car piece on the new car designers is probably as good as sex to a style freak.

"Today has just turned into tomorrow. At the Bar Azimut in Turin, where the walls are unpainted, the bar is stainless steel, the beer bottles plugged

with lime and the soundtrack slides from *Symphony for the Devil* through bleep-bleep to Jackson Five and back again. This is Turin as Barman jeans-flash: life-style as design, design as life-style." The star cover story is Barry Humphreys, topical with his book out, but the pictures are better than the words.

Every magazine needs a function, and you buy *Q* for the fashion when you need to buy a jacket just as you buy *What Car?* when you need to buy a car. However, for the *Q* reader, clothes and cars are not hobbies.

"After all," says David Thomson, formerly of *Punch* and author of a forthcoming book about men's awareness, "trousers are always the same length, so there isn't this obsession with fashion that

women have."

The magazine's tone is distinctly 1990s, with kippers for breakfast on the food page and Marks & Spencer wine-tasting; alternative investments on the money page; freeze-dried strawberries and palm-sized voice-activated computers on the "Objects" page. The best piece for me was "Killer Komic". In order to dodge an earth-threatening missile from the galaxy, the man who invented the hydrogen bomb suggests we chuck a nuke 10,000 times more powerful than anything now known at it. Well, he would, wouldn't he?

*Esquire* has a new editor, a woman called Rosie Boycott. As two of the traditional women's mass weeklies are edited by men, I find no contradiction in Ms Boycott doing it for the boys. Strong features include a

whiff of Third World, a hint of protest bringing it nearer to *Arena* (the first and probably still the best) and away from its traditional roots. Jimmy Nail is the cover story, although Spike Lee gets equal coverage inside. In spite of its ancient American origins, it feels younger than *Q*, a little less self-assured perhaps, rather self-consciously going for "things men are interested in", such as boxing, fishing (and presumably freeze-dried strawberries, as they make another appearance here).

*Esquire* has yet to find a function, a reason to buy. I suspect Ms Boycott is trying to signal it for good writing. Certainly this month's *Esquire* maintains its literary pretensions with an exclusive extract of the latest *Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

The star piece for me, however, is by this horrid 25-year-old trying to pick up a rich 80-year-old on the QE2. He actually feels a frisson of jealousy as the ship's tall, tanned confident social director moves in on the old girl

and wins. Of course, neither title tells you much about what men think. "Trouble is," Mr Thomas says, "if you print what men really think about sex you would not be able to sell the magazine on the bookstalls." His researches, however, have revealed a large constituency of men wanting to discover more about themselves. They are sick of being put down by women and want somebody to speak up for them on such things as divorce and battering, about their hurt at being automatically labelled child abusers and rapists by women. I feel a magazine coming on.

*Cigar Aficionado* is not it. You cannot buy it in the UK, but for anybody wanting to start his own magazine, it is a fascinating model. The editor says launching a magazine in 1992 calls for a stiff drink and a fine cigar. A cigar enthusiast himself, he threw out business wisdom and simply announced the launch.

*Cigar Aficionado* is not a trade magazine for cigar manufacturers. It is a lifestyle magazine for people who smoke cigars, and it is big and so glossy that you could put on your make-up in its reflection. It reeks of smoke and money and class and age. The first issue's "Welcome" page explains that 38 per cent of potential readers are million-

aires. As you might expect, there is much about the making of famous cigars, a blind cigar-tasting with two Cubans topping the league.

But it is the writing that stands out. Famous cigar smokers including Gay Talese and Pierre Salinger write about their passion as they have never been asked to before. The drink page is all about whisky and port, because you know your readers drink whisky and port if they smoke cigars. There are techno-porn pictures of cigar cutters. Gregory Hines is the star interview. The best piece asks the question: where can I smoke in peace? Perfectly in tune with the unfortunate smoker, it gives a list of where cigars are welcome. It is a rather short list.

The payoff piece by Pierre Salinger is about Kennedy, Cuba and cigars. The formula is so perfect, so niched, so targeted, that I wondered whether it would work with any other subject. I tried marmalade. Kennedy, Miami and Marmalade; Where Can I Eat An Orange in Public? Great Marmalades of the World; Toast and Coffee; the Ginger and Fred of the Breakfast Table; Born with Silver Spoons — the Orange Heiresses of California; Madonna: Me and My Marmalade. It works. Which must surely be why the magazine world is predicting a hit for the big cigar quarterly.

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## MANAGEMENT

# Now the South wants special help too

**Edward Fennell finds once prosperous regions joining forces to apply for Assisted Area status**

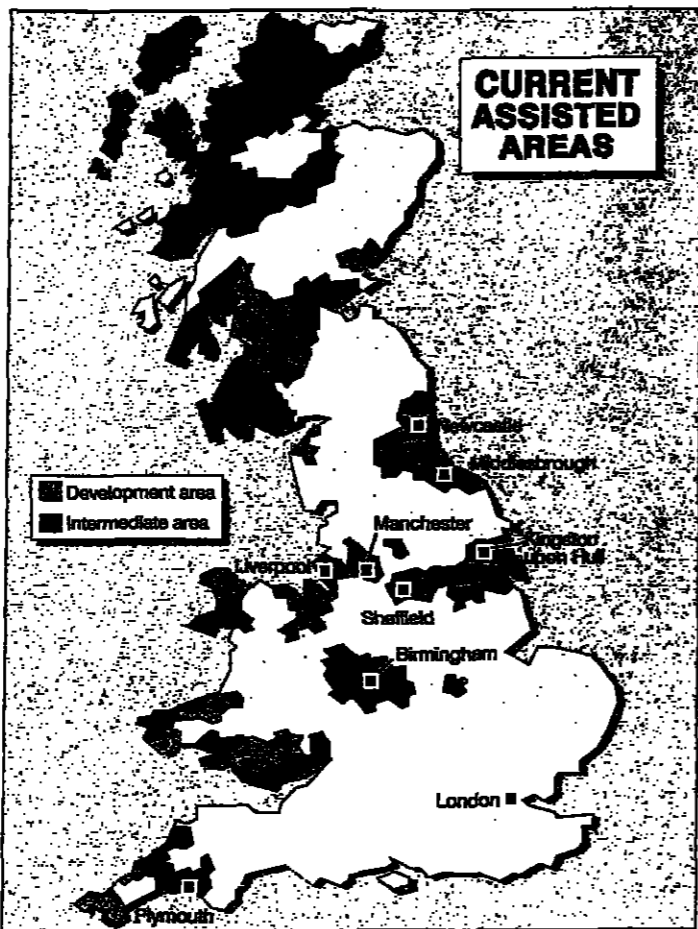
By the end of the year we could see a fundamental redrawing of the map of Assisted Areas. In particular, if local authorities in the South-East get what they want, there could be a marked shift away from the North and Midlands and towards areas along the southern coast which have been badly hit by the recession.

Traditionally prosperous places such as Fareham in Hampshire, Hastings in East Sussex, and parts of Suffolk are queuing up for the benefits that Assisted Area status could bring. The South no longer accepts that the North should always be allowed first claim on public handouts.

The Assisted Area map shows in which parts of the country the regional industrial incentives operated by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Scottish Office and the Welsh Office are available.

The current map was drawn in 1984, but the government announced this summer that it wants a new one published at the turn of the year. Representations for inclusion were invited from local authorities and other organisations, to be in by September 30.

Local levels of unemployment are usually the most important criterion for inclusion. The 1984 map, for example, has no Assisted Areas south of a line from the Wash to Bristol. But the structure of the national economy has changed radically in the past five years, with many towns in the South falling victim to recession and structural change. There are now unemployment blackspots in the leafy suburbs



Currently designated Assisted Areas: applications for inclusion on future maps have already been delivered to the government

just as there are in old manufacturing areas.

In particular, the cutbacks after the end of the Cold War have taken a heavy toll in areas such as the Solent coastline, where the Royal Navy and the hi-tech defence industry have been twin pillars of local prosperity. A decline in the naval dockyards and cutbacks in equipment contracts have thrown thousands out of work, and recent announcements of redundancies in the defence research agency may have finally condemned the area known as Greater Portsmouth.

Neighbouring local authorities

in the South are now working together to claim Assisted Area status. For example, the four authorities of Portsmouth, Gosport, Havant and Fareham have come together to produce a well-argued bid despite their starkly different social and residential profiles.

Portsmouth, with its established Economic Development Unit, took the lead. Recognising that it was too small an area to stand much chance of success by itself, it invited Gosport to join in. Then, at the suggestion of the DTI, it brought in Fareham and Havant as well.

"We were quite happy to allow

Portsmouth to take the lead," comments Bob Leach of Fareham district. "After all, the Portsmouth people were much more experienced in attracting investment, and had the staff to do it. Until recently, we in Fareham have really wanted to keep a low profile when it came to attracting new investment: basically we didn't need it."

Bringing four authorities into line to make a co-ordinated bid without permitting local rivalries to spoil the case has been a triumph of teamwork between elected members. Mike Hancock, the leader of Portsmouth city council and a former local MP, has led the exercise, and it has required his delicate negotiating skills to keep everyone happy. Only once, when people in Gosport felt they were being overlooked, have there been real tensions between the parties.

A sensitive subject that has surfaced in middle-class areas is whether there is any stigma attached to being classified as an Assisted Area. Places like Fareham may feel it rather a fall from grace to be put in the same category as Liverpool or Bradford.

"We've had to make clear that Assisted Area status is not like being an Urban Deprivation Area," says Mike Chambers, an official from Portsmouth city council involved in the bid. "We're not suggesting the area is falling apart socially. But the reality is that because of fundamental changes in the economy we face unemployment problems as severe as parts of the North. It is a simple statistical fact. We've contributed to the national pot in the past - we feel it's now our turn to get some of the benefits."

It will be some months before the outcome of the Assisted Area bids are known. The indications are that the government would like to reduce the map, not increase it. But for areas in the South faced with an economic vacuum, success in the Assisted Area stakes may be an important chance to recover their former prosperity.

The council tax is blighted by the property slump, and may yet give way to a new rates system, writes Colin Farrington

## No local tax will ever be top of the polls

Local taxes will always be highly visible. Most people do not have the slightest idea how much tax they pay to central government: they do not compute their total of value added tax, custom and excise duties, and most people do not even know how much income tax they pay. But we all know precisely how much our local tax bill is, because it comes to us in one go, even if paid by instalments.

Aside from public cynicism about local taxes in the wake of the poll tax debate, there are two reasons why introducing the council tax cannot be as straightforward as it seems.

The first derives from the tweaking of what is basically the rates by the introduction of a personal element, most particularly an automatic discount for single householders. There is in fact no economic or social case for such an automatic discount. Not every single-person household is badly off.

What makes matters worse is that it is widely said that because half of the council tax is related to property and half to a personal element, and because the average bill relates to the average two-person household, single people are "entitled" to a 25 per cent discount. This only adds a touch of ideological insult to injury.

The whole system of single person discounts and the baggage of other special exemptions inherited from the poll tax will make the collection of tax unnecessarily expensive (though still much simpler than the poll tax).

The second and more fundamental point relates to the valuation banding exercise, which has already been the subject of some silly science misreporting.

Any property tax must be based on a single valuation date. April

1991 was the right date to choose for the council tax valuations, as it gave time for a proper process of assessment and its orderly conversion into tax bills.

It also seemed to fit quite nicely into the house-price cycle - for most commentators thought that April 1991 would be a low point, so that when people received tax assessments in 1993 they would be pleasantly surprised to see their taxes based on out-of-date low

determines what share of total local taxation must be borne by the individual household.

If everyone's property has fallen by the same amount since April 1991, and all other things are equal, such as the level of forecast government grant as a share of local authority expenditure, the fall will have no effect on the actual amount of tax payable by each household.

The whole process would have been much simpler if the government had followed professional advice and had not fixed the valuation bands prior to the general survey of properties. Under the system which most professionals preferred, properties would have been banded individually and put into bands to pay a flat-rate tax in each, once the distribution was known.

It would also have been possible under that system to build in some regional variation to compensate for the differing ranges of property prices. The reason this scheme was not adopted was purely a matter of timing and the overriding

political imperative to have the replacement for the poll tax in place before the general election of April 1992 and to show that it could be effective, however flawed, by April 1993.

While the new tax has not yet been fully implemented - and indeed should be supported since the only practical alternative is centralisation - one more set of political gaffes seems to be coming home to roost before we eventually return, I believe, to the quiet life of a restored property tax.

● The author is director of the Institute of Revenue, Rating and Valuation, and author of Council Tax: Your Burden, available from 41 Doughty St, London WC1N 2LF, at £6.99.



Colin Farrington: costly calculations

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Short listing will take place on Thursday 5th November 1992. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to make an informal visit to the school some time before the interviews which will be held on Saturday 28th November 1992.

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The public defender system is the American way. James Morton interviews Rita Fry

## Is this the answer for legal aid?

Contracts and fixed fees for legal-aid lawyers could result in increasing numbers dropping out of the scheme. What, then, are the chances of a public defender system in England and Wales?

The idea is well established in the United States. Rita Fry, who runs one of the largest practices in Illinois with six million potential clients, is the Cook County public defender. She is only the second ethnic minority member to hold the position and the first woman.

"I am responsible for 508 lawyers handling 225,000 cases annually for indigent defendants," she says. "We take everything from driving under the influence to misdemeanours — battery and theft through felony to death penalty cases, appeals, post-trial petitions and mental health hearings. We do almost everything in the system where people may lose their liberty. The ratio of male to female is about 55-45 per cent, including lawyers, support staff and investigators."

Lawyers stay for seven to ten years and move on to private practice, but Ms Fry is trying to change this. "I am pushing that this be regarded as a career office," she says. "It is a full-time position and people cannot be in private practice on the side. Those who handle only appeals are expected to undertake at least 16 a year, except those who deal in the death penalty cases, who need take only eight."

To be in felony court you have to be qualified for at least three and preferably five years. The homicide task force of 28 are the highest paid at \$47,000 (about £27,000) a year. The starting salary is \$28,600. Ms Fry's salary is \$90,000, plus a car.

New recruits have a month's training, including a mock trial and a police ride-along — "going out on a shift in a patrol car to see what officers do". They have training in cross-examination and lectures by expert witnesses on ballistics and other forensic issues.

Most lawyers are white and there will therefore be a visit to public housing "so they have a sense of what that means".

Ms Fry feels there is a crisis in criminal justice, particularly in juvenile work. She explains: "We have always represented the working core and now the financially strapped middle classes in the north of the county. We are getting more white clients. In the western suburbs we represent the blacks and Hispanics who used to work in shops and factories. The south is turning into another crisis area. There are not enough lawyers to handle cases."

"I am planning a seminar to talk about how we can get the private Bar involved. We need help on caseloads. There is a scheme in Atlanta in which lawyers will undertake to accept up to ten indigent cases a year. I should like to see that replicated here. The private Bar has the credibility and the influence to come in and say change is needed. I want to see assigned counsel so that we can contract out of civil and misdemeanour work."

She would like changes in the way cases are handled. "The courts work a vertical system whereby the trial lawyer will pick up the case only on arraignment," she says. "A defendant will have had his case handled by two or three lawyers before he gets to the person who will defend him. I want to change to a horizontal system where the first lawyer involved picks up the case and keeps it."

She is adamant about the potential conflict between the court and her office. "The role of the defence attorney is not to expedite court hearings or aid in managing court business," she says. "The first obligation is to the client. The presiding judge and I have a philosophical difference at present. I believe the client's rights and



Rita Fry: "It is uncivilised in a civilised world if the accused is not properly represented"

interests come first." At present, most of the new lawyers are white and Ms Fry would like to see more recruited from the minorities.

"The trouble is the salary is low," she complains. "If you have some way of subsidising your income you may be able to make the sacrifice but by and large ethnic minority

students have not." She is committed to ensuring the poor are properly represented.

"Defence services in this country have to be taken seriously and not seen as the stepchildren of the system," she says. "We must come out of the shadows. The fact that people have no money should not

prevent them from having counsel. If the accused is being prosecuted by an attorney who knows the system and the accused does not have an equal to represent him, he is not going to get a fair trial. In a civilised world this is uncivilised."

● The author is the editor of New Law Journal

## Problems in view for videos

The new rules for court evidence by children could defeat their own object

The Criminal Justice Act 1991, which came in two weeks ago, has brought a new concept into our criminal trial. Where violence, cruelty and sexual misconduct towards children are alleged, a video recording of the child's evidence will partly replace the child's live testimony in court. The court can substitute examination in chief by the prosecution with questioning of the child on video by police officers and social workers at an early stage in the investigation.

The idea is excellent: to relieve a child of having to give evidence in court, while safeguarding a defendant's rights. The provisions, however, may cause several problems. First, there is the practical question of whether the child will watch the video before being cross-examined. If the child sees the video to refresh his or her memory, or when it is played for the jury, much of the object of avoiding the prosecutor's questioning is removed, as the child will have to relive the experience. Yet if the child does not see the video before cross-examination, he or she may find it hard to recall the evidence. The jury, in turn, will find it difficult to decide whether any resulting inconsistencies arise from the child's memory loss or lies. On balance, therefore, the child must be allowed to see the video before cross-examination.

A second problem is that the video is generally admissible only where the child is available for live cross-examination. If there are several child witnesses who are cross-examined and the last child refuses to answer questions after the playing of the video, the judge must decide whether to discharge the jury and oblige children who have given evidence to face the ordeal of a retrial, or to allow the case to go on with the real risk of a miscarriage of justice.

The removal of committal proceedings in allegations of violence and sexual abuse of children, though intended to reduce the number of a child's court appear-

ances, may compound this problem, because it will be hard to assess how the child will withstand the rigours of a court appearance.

The Act does, however, allow witness statements to be read if the witnesses are unavailable or will not give evidence through fear. If a child comes within these provisions, the Act appears to allow the video to be played without subsequent cross-examination. The court may find it hard to decide whether the child is afraid of the defendant or the court proceedings.

The viewing of oral testimony in the absence of cross-examination would also have a more profound and misleading effect on a jury than the reading of witness statements. Such evidence should be admitted with extreme caution. Finally, a matter of concern for the Bar and perhaps the judiciary is that the legal-aid authorities are unwilling to pay for transcripts of the video to be made for the defence. This is to discourage the dissemination of material that might be misused as pornography.

However, cross-examination of a child and preparation of the defence case will be difficult without reference to an agreed record of the video's contents. Lack of such a record could also create havoc in the courtroom as the video would have to be replayed to resolve disputes as to prior testimony.

The assumption that a jury can form a complete impression of a child witness who gives live evidence solely under cross-examination is yet to be tested. Questioning by police officers and social workers on the recording is bound to contrast with courtroom cross-examination by a trained advocate. It will require an objective analysis of the child's evidence by the jury to ensure justice is done.

Let us hope the teething problems envisaged are not ones that will require filings or extraction.

STEPHEN LESLIE

● The author is a practising barrister.

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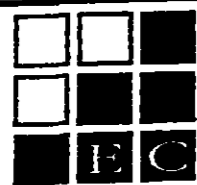
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## Notice Periods

Negotiating the notice period in a new contract of employment never used to be a problem. In recent weeks, however, there have been several instances in which offers of employment have actually foundered on the question of notice.

Usually it is the candidate who proffers the longer notice period. In special cases, it may be the employer. A small London firm, for instance, which solicitors seem to leave with alacrity, is now trying to retain its staff by introducing a 2-year notice period, attended by various penalties for early leaving. This novel approach may work if willingly accepted.

Unfortunately, the effect so far has been that two candidates in succession have turned their offers down. If the candidate is the one to press for an unusually long notice period (particularly in the case of senior appointments and those where a following is required) the employer may wonder whether there are any hidden surprises in store. The offer may then be withdrawn, not because a longer notice period in itself is unacceptable but because it signals the candidate's own doubts about the likely success of the move.

That the notice period has become an issue is another token of the deepening economic recession. The advantage is with the employer. They can introduce unusual conditions into their contracts. Candidates, for their part, are increasingly concerned not about the holidays and other benefits being offered but about the way their new job may be terminated.

Michael Chambers

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Med-sized firm seeks 2-4 yrs qual solicitor (or senior solicitor with following) for advising dept handling receiverships, liquidations, and reconstructions.

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## 43

## CHANNEL 4

6.00 **Cartoons** (16836) 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (75145)  
8.00 **You Bet Your Life**. American game show (44400)  
9.30 **Schools** (860148)  
12.00 **Profiles of Nature**. Walter and Myrna Beret's film of the greatest  
sandhill crane (86338)  
12.30 **Seaside Street** (83348) 1.30 **Take 5** (17058)  
2.00 **Film: The Matting Series** (1951, b/w) starring Gene Tierney, John  
Lund and Thelma Ritter. Comic-social satire about a working-class  
mother who arrives at the home of her upwardly mobile son and is  
mistaken by his wealthy wife for a maid. Directed by Mitchell Leiser  
(490706)  
3.50 **Telcad's Airs: The Magic Flute**. A Mozart aria acted out by  
animated puppets (2721955)  
4.00 **A Houseful of Plants**. This last in the series includes a visit to the  
garden of Robert Irvine, owner of the Summer Isles Hotel on the  
west coast of Scotland (1). (Teletext) (333)  
4.30 **Fifteen To One**. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (s) (436)  
5.00 **Crawshaw Paints On Holiday**. Alwyn Crawshaw with painting tips  
from Palma, Majorca (1329)  
5.30 **If Wishes Were Horses**. The final programme of the series  
following the fortunes of mixed ability children as they learn to ride  
(1) (s) (787)  
6.00 **Remake Control**. Comedy quiz show (s) (400)  
6.30 **Roseanne**. Wise-cracking blue-collar comedy series starring  
Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman (1). (Teletext) (752)  
7.00 **Channel 4 News**. (Teletext) Weather (493226)  
7.50 **Comment** (783948)  
8.00 **The Forests of Goudaansa**. Chris Kelly looks at the diversity of  
wildlife of the Seychelles. (Teletext) (7313)  
8.30 **Check Out 92**. This week's edition of the consumer affairs  
magazine looks into the high-tech world of charities (s) (9348)  
9.00 **Without Walls**  
● **CHOICE**: Tonight's films look at the myth of Brigitte Bardot and  
ask whether Shakespeare was a homosexual. The Bardot study is  
the more conventional, a potted history of her career embellished  
with approving feminist noises from the American writer Camille  
Paglia. Bardot may see herself as a victim of male manipulation but  
Paglia argues that the star's potent sexuality was a weapon, not a  
weakness. The Shakespeare enquiry is conducted by the actor  
Simon Callow, with the help of various professors of English  
literature. Evidence of what these experts call homoerotic desire is  
tentatively found in passages from *Othello* and *Coriolanus*, in one of  
the Sonnets and among the ambiguous cross-dressing of *Twelfth  
Night* and *As You Like It*. Whether this adds up to evidence of  
Shakespeare being gay, the viewer may doubt (2145)



Taking aim: Ian Hawkes plays ten-year-old Eddie (10.00pm)


10.00 **Film on Four: Queen of Hearts** (1990) starring Vittorio Duse and  
Joseph Long. A story of love and revenge as told through the eyes  
of ten-year-old Eddie, who lives with three generations of his family  
under one roof in London's Islington district. Directed by Ian James

who was also responsible for The Singing Detective (406588)  
**12.05am Emissary** American comedy series starring Richard Muller  
 as a widowed medical man (p) (1714608)  
**12.35 The Two Lives of Mattia Pascal** directed by Marcello Mastroianni  
 a man who, presumed dead, starts out on a new life. In Italian  
 English subtitles (9378518)  
**1.50 Film: Her Man** (1930, b/w) starring Helen Twelvetrees as a  
 woman trying to live Paris's social underworld. Directed by Tay Garnett  
 (2771153). Ends at 3.20

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**10.30 Night**  
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European Cup tie

By JOHN GOODBODY

THERE will be a ban on away supporters for both legs of the European Cup second-round tie between Rangers and Leeds United at Ibrox on October 21 and Elland Road on November 4.

The tie has been given a "high risk" classification by Uefa, European football's governing body, which deems it potentially combustible because of violent outbreaks between English and Scottish supporters in the past.

However, Campbell Ogilvie, the Rangers secretary, denied that hooliganism had brought the decision. He said that, with Ibrox holding 42,000 and Elland Road 25,000, there would be a shortage of tickets for home supporters.

Ogilvie was speaking after officials of the clubs and police representatives had met in Glasgow. He said: "We are doing this with regret. There will be a lot of disappointed people. We hope both sets of supporters will understand that the decision was taken on its merits for this particular

match and the number of tickets available in the two stadiums.

"If we had given Leeds 2,000 tickets for the match here, we would have been depriving 2,000 of our followers the opportunity of seeing the game. Similarly, if Leeds had allowed us 2,000 tickets for Elland Road, 2,000 fewer of their supporters could have seen the game in England."

Although some supporters will certainly attempt to watch to both legs by buying tickets on the black market, the ban will restrict the number of visiting spectators, particularly since ITV seems certain to screen both legs live to most of the United Kingdom.

Bill Fotherby, the Leeds managing director, doubted whether any ban on visiting supporters could work. "The fanatical supporters of Leeds and Glasgow will go anywhere to follow their team," he said. "They want to be part of the atmosphere." Last Friday, 2,693 Leeds supporters travelled to Barcelona for the hastily-arranged deciding

match with VfB Stuttgart in the first round.

Monica Hartland, the deputy chairman of the National Federation of Supporters' Clubs, said: "We welcome the decision, which is reasonable. There is short-term sadness for the supporters, particularly those Leeds followers who made the journey to Barcelona last Friday but in the long-term it is expedient."

"Our organisation firmly believes that, in principle, every ground must accommodate away supporters for every match. However, this is a unique case."

"There is no way we should endanger England's right to stage the European championship in 1996."

The Football Supporters' Association, however, was less happy. Its spokesman, David Lee, said: "It sets a precedent which Uefa may be very happy to follow in the future. And it could overlap into the domestic game where clubs could use a ban on away supporters to overcome the problem of reduced capacity as grounds are redeveloped."

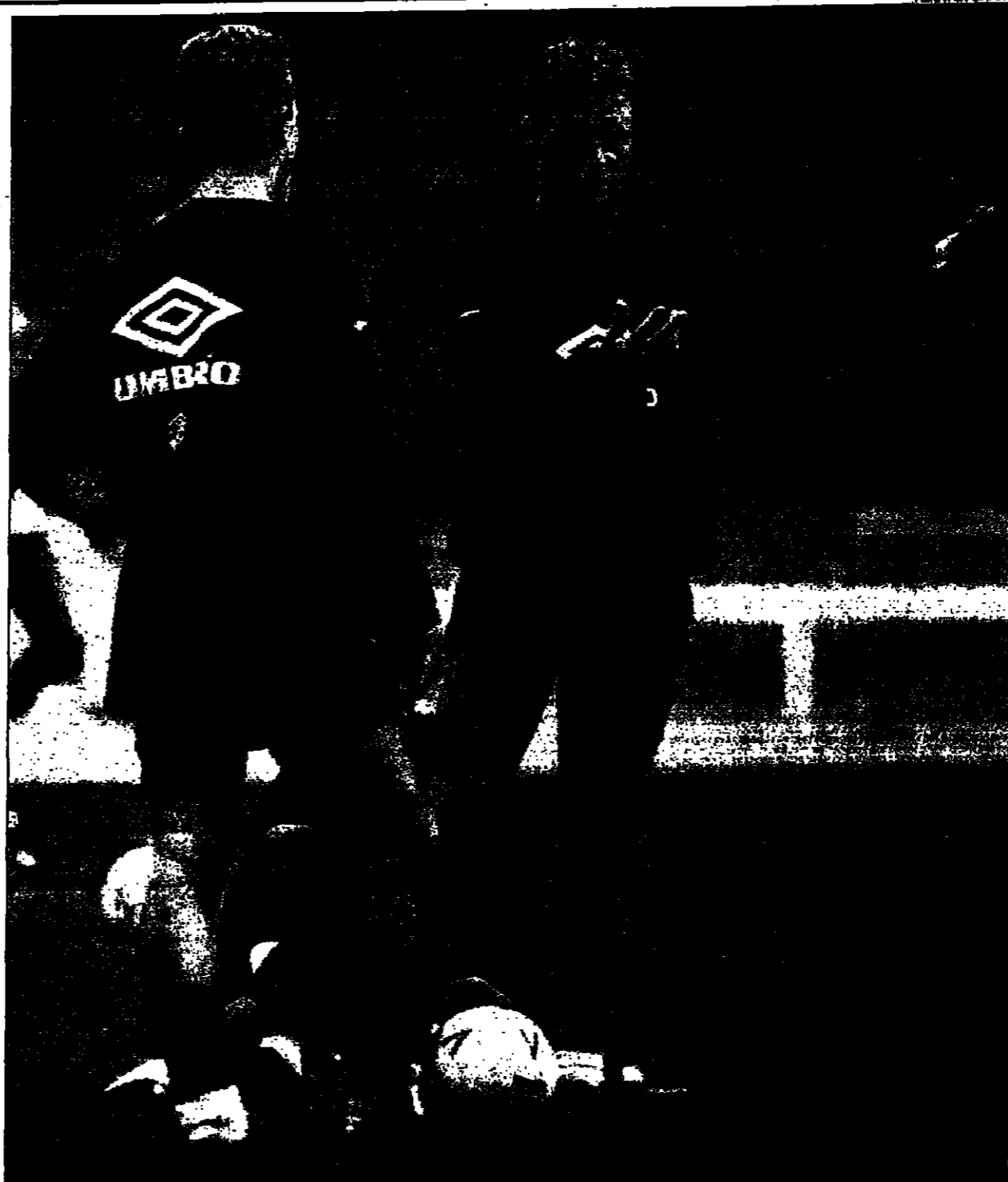
"We realise that for this match there will be a vast demand for tickets but we do not believe a ban is the correct solution as fans will still be tempted to travel."

Although Scottish supporters, unlike the English, have not become involved in any serious hooliganism at either the 1990 World Cup or the 1992 European championship, there have been troubles in the past when they have met the English. The government ordered the 1985 England v Scotland match at Wembley to be staged at Hampden Park but trouble continued and the 1989 fixture in Glasgow, marred by disturbances, has been the last between the two countries.

Neither the English nor the Scottish Football Association attended the meeting yesterday but both organisations communicated their views.

Leeds have had an unpleasant reputation. In May 1990, their followers became involved in the worst outbreak of hooliganism in Britain in the past three years, when thousands of their followers invaded Bournemouth to celebrate the second division championship game.

ITV is optimistic that the matches could bring in audiences of more than 12 million, although the first-leg tie will not be shown live in Scotland because Heart of Midlothian are at home to Standard Liege on the same night.



England's future in his hands: Gascoigne, right, discusses moves with Shearer at Wembley yesterday

## Taylor seeks show of strength

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND enter the World Cup qualifying competition against Norway at Wembley tomorrow with a worryingly fragile side. No one can be sure about the reliability of the players who will be named today to fill the central roles in defence and in midfield.

A home defeat at the hands of the confident Norwegians, who have won all three of their group two matches, would be as calamitous as it would be unprecedented. But Graham Taylor's team is far from certain to be able to bear the weight of the nation's expectations, outlined by the England manager yesterday.

"We are looking forward to a fresh start," the England manager said. "If we have a good win, it will set the tempo for the World Cup campaign and people can forget about the disappointment of the European championship in the summer."

England, with only two wins in the last nine fixtures, are in need of a surge of

optimism and Taylor is aware of the consequences of failure. "Conversely, if the result is bad," he said, "you know as well as I do that the roof will come in."

Des Walker's defensive partner in the practice session at Wembley yesterday was Tony Adams. Although the Arsenal captain will not necessarily make his first appearance for 19 months, Taylor's other choices represent as much of a gamble. Richard Johnson, for whom he has high regard, has yet to make his debut.

Nurtured by Taylor at Watford, the 29-year-old from Oldham Athletic is part of the weakest defence in the Premier League. Gary Pallister, the alternative, is in the strongest, at Manchester United, but he is liable to commit a needless error in each game.

Adams's prolonged absence from the England side is an indication of his deficiency. His rugged style is suited to the demands of the domestic game and Taylor, significantly,

has so far chosen him only for the two European championship qualifying ties against the Republic of Ireland.

Since substitutes were not required for those fixtures, Paul Gascoigne was omitted from both. He has not represented England since, but Taylor can scarcely resist the public clamour for his inclusion in the starting line-up rather than as one of the five substitutes.

"There is no risk involved in putting him on the pitch," Taylor said. "But he is unlikely to be able to sustain 90 minutes. When you have a highly gifted individual like him, though, there is a case for saying that you should use him from the beginning."

Gascoigne concedes that he is not match-fit, but England are otherwise so bereft of enterprise in midfield that an abbreviated contribution would still be valuable and perhaps decisive.

However, the midfield will have to be re-designed to accommodate him. Paul Ince

and David Platt, neither of whom would tire of running from one penalty area to the other, will probably relieve Gascoigne of the need to expend too much, if any, energy in England's half.

With Lee Dixon and Stuart Pearce, augmenting what promises to be a heavily propounded midfield, David Batty may be given the responsibility of acting as the defensive anchor there. Naturally combative, he tends to concede free kicks and, considering the depth of his position, invariably in threatening areas.

The England front line is also an unknown quantity. Apart from appearing against New Zealand during last year's summer tour, Ian Wright has not led the attack for 17 months. His recall would complete the unpredictability in Taylor's line-up.

Norway appear to be ready for anything England may come up with, particularly after beating Holland in an earlier tie. "We expect England to play and to attack at a higher tempo than Holland, but we can handle this," Egil Olsen, the Norwegian coach, said yesterday.

Olsen chose Rune Bratseth, the central defender and captain, as his key player, although he has a slight doubt over a leg injury.

ENGLAND line-up: G. Wood, L. Dixon, A. Adams, D. Walker, S. Pearce, P. Ince, D. Batty, P. Gascoigne, D. Platt, A. Shearer, I. Wright.

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WHILE one pre-Wimbledon women's tennis event was assured of backing for at least another three years yesterday, the future of another was thrown into further confusion (Andrew Longmore writes).

Volkswagen, which already sponsors the Lawn Tennis Association's ratings system and next month's national championships at Telford, has extended its sponsorship to include the grass-court tournament at Eastbourne in the week before Wimbledon.

"VW will replace Pilkington Glass, which pulled out after this year's championship, won by Lori McNeil. Next year's tournament, from June 14 to 19, will have £220,000 in prize money and has a field that is guaranteed to include three of the world's top ten players and one in the top three."

Although there was little doubt that one of the most traditional and popular events in the British calendar would survive, the news of the new sponsorship will certainly please Martina Navratilova, ten times champion at Devonshire Park.

In contrast, the LTA's chances of finding a sponsor for the Birmingham pre-Wimbledon tournament took a turn for the worse yesterday. This is because the European Open in Lucerne has not only changed its date from before the French Open to compete with what was the Dow Classic, but it will be played on artificial grass and not clay.

There is, however, a difference of opinion among the top players about the merits of an artificial grass surface. Steffi Graf, the Wimbledon champion, does not like it. "It is very dangerous," she said. "If you slip on it you can get burnt badly." Pam Shriver was more enthusiastic. "There have been some improvements in the surface and it might appeal to those who do not like the low bounce of Edgbaston."

Surrey to  
consider  
its actions

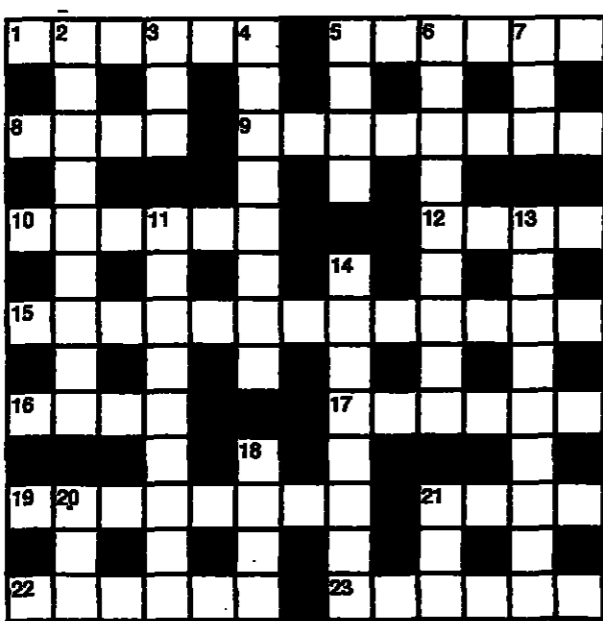
SO wide-ranging is Surrey's committee of enquiry report into offences of ball-tampering that the club is to spend a further week considering its recommendations (Ivo Tennant writes). It is not yet known whether punitive measures will extend to dismissals.

Surrey established the three-man committee following their suspended fine of £1,000 by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB). It is not recommending recommendations but the club said its conclusions "will bear on the players, staff and its organisation."

The committee spoke to Alec Stewart and Ian Greig, present and former captains, and the cricket committee chairman, Jimmy Pofford. It is understood they have not talked to Wagar Younis, their Pakistan bowler.

The committee's brief was to ascertain what the offences were and investigate charges.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2917



## ACROSS

- 1 Injured party (6)
- 5 Trudges (6)
- 8 Male deer (4)
- 9 Spontaneous (8)
- 10 Small cupboard (6)
- 12 King's Lynn River (4)
- 15 Slatted window cover (8,5)
- 16 Leading man (4)
- 17 Dangerous (6)
- 19 Paper scraper (8)
- 21 Frame of mind (4)
- 22 Irritate (6)
- 23 Hoodwink (6)

## DOWN

- 2 Brains (9)
- 3 Young sheep (3)
- 4 Huge pile (8)
- 5 London Underground (4)
- 6 Lion's slave friend (9)
- 7 Edgar Allan - , novelist (3)
- 11 Pioneer (9)
- 13 Coolness (8)
- 14 Questioned (8)
- 18 Unoccupied (4)
- 20 Garden weeder (3)
- 21 Inch thousandth (3)

## SOLUTIONS TO NO 2916

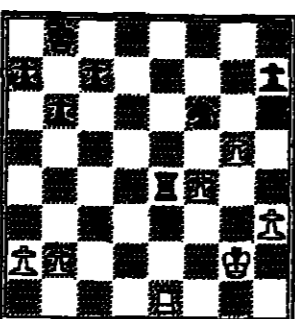
ACROSS: 1 Vacuum cleaner 8 Decks 9 Nairobi 10 UNO 11 Otter 12 Pothole 14 Elated 16 Ape 20 Osmosis 23 Naps 24 UHT 25 Dancer 26 Issue 27 Reinforcement  
DOWN: 1 Video recorder 2 Cecilia 3 Upsurge 4 Canopy 5 Exist 6 No-one 7 Reimbursement 13 Hip 15 Two 17 Pantle 18 Epouse 19 Urrer 21 Menal 22 Sheaf

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Norwood - Crouch, Lloyds Bank 1992. White is a piece down and if he is to get anything out of this game, he must use his kingside pawns very quickly. How can this best be accomplished?

Solution below.



Solution: White can win with 1. gxf3! fxe3 2. f4! e2 3. f5! e1 4. f6! e2 5. f7! e1 6. f8! e2 7. f9! e1 8. f10! e2 9. f11! e1 10. f12! e2 11. f13! e1 12. f14! e2 13. f15! e1 14. f16! e2 15. f17! e1 16. f18! e2 17. f19! e1 18. f20! e2 19. f21! e1 20. f22! e2 21. f23! e1 22. f24! e2 23. f25! e1 24. f26! e2 25. f27! e1 26. f28! e2 27. f29! e1 28. f30! e2 29. f31! e1 30. f32! e2 31. f33! e1 32. f34! e2 33. f35! e1 34. f36! e2 35. f37! e1 36. f38! e2 37. f39! e1 38. f40! e2 39. f41! e1 40. f42! e2 41. f43! e1 42. f44! e2 43. f45! e1 44. f46! e2 45. f47! e1 46. f48! e2 47. f49! e1 48. f50! e2 49. f51! e1 50. f52! e2 51. f53! e1 52. f54! e2 53. f55! e1 54. f56! e2 55. f57! e1 56. f58! e2 57. f59! e1 58. f60! e2 59. f61! e1 60. f62! e2 61. f63! e1 62. f64! e2 63. f65! e1 64. f66! e2 65. f67! e1 66. f68! e2 67. f69! e1 68. f70! e2 69. f71! e1 70. f72! e2 71. f73! e1 72. f74! e2 73. f75! e1 74. f76! e2 75. f77! e1 76. f78! e2 77. f79! e1 78. f80! e2 79. f81! e1 80. f82! e2 81. f83! e1 82. f84! e2 83. f85! e1 84. f86! e2 85. f87! e1 86. f88! e2 87. f89! e1 88. f90! e2 89. f91! e1 90. f92! e2 91. f93! e1 92. f94! e2 93. f95! e1 94. f96! e2 95. f97! e1 96. f98! e2 97. f99! e1 100. f100! e2

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## Denmark cannot afford another lapse

FROM CLIVE WHITE IN COPENHAGEN



Schmeichel: no illusions

COPENHAGEN is not looking forward to Denmark's World Cup qualifying tie tomorrow against the Republic of Ireland; at least, some Danish players do not appear to be.

Since maximising the opportunity afforded them by Yugoslavia's expulsion from the European championship finals in the summer, Denmark have suffered a reaction so extreme that it is felt by one of their number that if they do not win tomorrow, that will be another championship they have not qualified for as of

right. Who would have guessed back in those hazy, crazy days of last summer when Denmark exceeded all expectations, including probably their own, to lift the European championship, that they would trip up over the unlikely stumbling blocks of Latvia and Lithuania at the outset of their next campaign.

Those goalless draws, albeit away from home, have placed them at a huge disadvantage to qualify from group three, given the tough competition provided by Ireland, who head the group with maxi-

mum points from two games, and Spain.

Peter Schmeichel, the Denmark and Manchester United goalkeeper, is under no illusions about their task and, perhaps mindful of the away games to come against their two keenest rivals, said starkly: "If we don't win this game I can't see how we can qualify."

Roy Keane, the Nottingham Forest midfielder player, is being considered by Jack Charlton for the defensive midfield role, vacated by the injured Paul McGrath, in front of the Irish back four.

## Scots may plug other sides' gaps

By ALAN LORIMER

SCOTLAND may be represented on both sides in the final of the Rugby World Cup Sevens next April if a new regulation covering replacement players is approved later this month.

Rugby World Cup (RWC), the administrative body that controls the sevens championship, is expected to approve a proposal that would allow teams that lose more than three of their ten-strong party to injury to draw on a pool of stand-bys from the hosts, Scotland. Thus, a Scot might find himself playing for, say Fiji, and indeed against Scotland.

Keith Rowlands, the secretary of both the International Board and RWC, said: "Normally the limit for major tournaments throughout the world is nine players per squad but we decided to increase this by one for the World Cup."

Having decided on a limit of ten players per country, RWC had to decide what to do if teams run out of players as a result of injuries. It was Rowlands's idea to provide a pool of Scottish players to be used as replacements by any national side that found itself depleted.

Any stand-by player called upon would remain with whichever team had picked

him for the remainder of the tournament.

Rowlands's reasoning is based on his observations of other leading sevens tournaments. The practice has been for teams to borrow players from other squads to make up their numbers. For example, John Jeffrey, then a Scotland international, appeared for a depleted Wales team in Hong Kong.

"It is this indiscriminate use of players by other countries that we want to avoid," Rowlands said. "We think it is better to control such situations by setting up a pool of reserve players." Charlie Bisset, the tournament manager, said: "We want everyone

to be on a level playing field."

The likelihood is that the Scottish Rugby Union would use those players selected for the initial squad of 27 who did not make the final ten.

Scotland players will also be invited to provide live opposition for the national sides in practice games before the start of the competition. If these become over-vigorous, Scots could then find themselves appearing in the early rounds of the World Cup.

Meanwhile, it would do Wales no harm if they kept in touch with Jeffrey. Although he will be the Scotland coach in the World Cup Sevens, might just be persuaded back into competitive rugby.

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